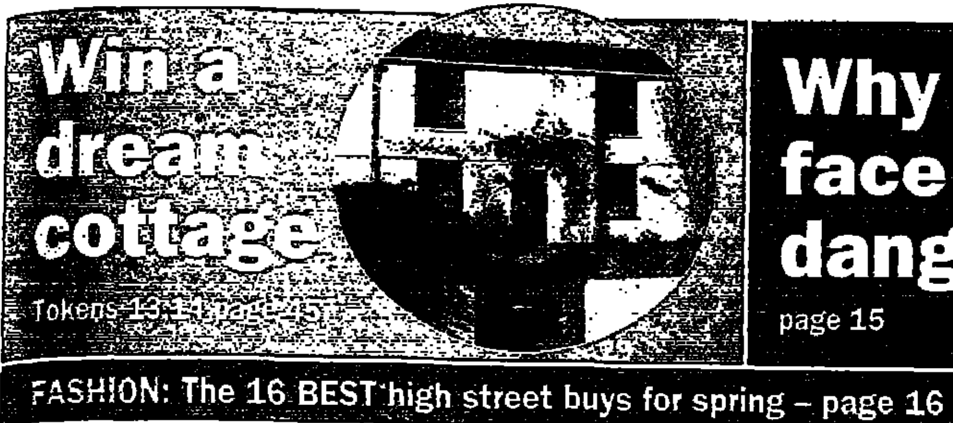
THE TIMES

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Why do boys face daily danger? page 15

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West offers refugees sanctuary

Airlift will take 100,000 Kosovans to safety

By Michael Evans, Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

THOUSANDS of ethnic Albanians are to be given temporary shelter in Britain and other Western countries after another 24 hours of mass exodus from Kosovo.

The airlift of refugees was one of a number of emergency measures announced yesterday. Others include a special sanctuary for 100,000 ethnic Albanians to be set up by the UN and Nato at Brazde in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Nato also intends to send up to 8,000 troops to Albania to help to co-ordinate handling of the refugee crisis there.

The number of refugees earmarked for airlifting out of the region is likely to be at least 100,000. However, governments who have agreed to share the burden with Albania and Macedonia emphasised that the longer term objective remained to see them all return safely to their homes in Kosovo.





Julia Taft, America's Assistant Secretary of State, who came face to face with the human misery on the Macedonian border yesterday, described the airlift as a burden-sharing exercise, which would begin in the next few days.

The decision to fly refugees out of the region was a total reversal of Britain's previously stated policy which was to encourage the Albanians to stay in the region, to ensure that President Milosevic could not claim that his ethnic cleansing had succeeded.

That view was spelt out last week by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who was in the region yesterday examining the requirements for helping the refugees in Albania and Macedonia.

The promise to airlift refugees to Europe, America and Canada also took many Whitehall ministries by surprise. The Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, two key ministries who will be involved in the new policy, appeared to know nothing about it until Downing Street made the announcement.

The decision came after increasingly alarming reports from Macedonia that the Government there could no longer cope with the influx.

Britain is expected to take about 10,000 refugees into hostels and other temporary accommodation, on top of the 9,000 Kosovan refugees already here. America is to take 20,000.

The Home Office is understood to be working on plans to set up reception centres in towns and cities across the country, and Jack Straw will discuss numbers with his European counterparts on Wednesday. Yesterday Downing Street would confirm only that "several thousand" would be allowed to come to Britain.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "Our top priority is to get these refugees back to their homes and enable them to rebuild their lives in a secure environment. The immediate requirement is to provide food and shelter."

In a newspaper article published only yesterday, Tony Blair said that the Government's aim was to avoid dispersing the Kosovo Albanians around Europe. Writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, he said: "Bosnia showed that is a policy of despair. Bosnia's refugees are now scattered across the continent. They will probably never return to their homes."

However, ministers denied there had been a U turn, emphasising that the refugees would be taken only on a temporary basis. They would be given neither permanent homes nor political asylum.

One government source said the move sat easily with the efforts to get aid to the refugees in the region: "It's all about providing temporary help."

While Nato reiterated its intention of inflicting a sustained bombing campaign on Yugoslav military targets this week, member governments focused much of their energy on trying to resolve the humanitarian crisis.

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Jackson, the British commander who would have led Nato's proposed 28,000-man peace implementation force in Kosovo had there been a settlement, was authorised yesterday to take charge of the relief operation. And top UN and EU officials met Nato ambassadors at the alliance's Brussels headquarters last night to co-ordinate plans.

Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said that allied soldiers were already providing accommodation for 20,000 refugees in makeshift tent cities.

The proposal to create a sanctuary in Macedonia to accommodate 100,000 refugees was put forward by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. It will be run by the UN and Nato at Brazde. Senior Foreign Offices sources said that the object was to give the Albanians somewhere to go as they fled the "killing grounds".

After another weekend of sustained bombing, which included more strikes on barracks, bridges, fuel depots and oil refinery, there were further moves yesterday to boost the firepower available for the air campaign as the improved weather allows more operations.

Washington confirmed that it was deploying Apache attack helicopters to the region, although no decision has yet been made about whether to use them in Operation Allied Force. The Apaches are armed with Hellfire anti-tank missiles which could target Serb armour in Kosovo.

The American aircraft carrier, *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, also arrived in the Adriatic, providing another 75 aircraft for use in the campaign, and another 13 American F117 Stealth fighters landed in Germany yesterday.

The decision to send Apache helicopters was seen as a potentially risky option, because of the need to operate low-flying attacks to hit Yugoslav tanks and artillery, making the air crews vulnerable.

There were also indications yesterday that US forces in Macedonia might be preparing to fire multiple launch rockets over the border against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo, although permission would have to be sought from the government in Skopje.

A meeting of the Contact Group has been arranged for Wednesday to review ways of finding a political solution to the crisis in Kosovo.

SIMON WALKER



Armed police block the way as Albanian refugees from Kosovo stranded in no man's land at Blace beg for entry into Macedonia

> ‘Ethnic cleansing is leading to the crucifixion of Kosovo. Military action is recognition that the civilised world cannot stand by and accept that evil should triumph’
>
> — *Dr George Carey, page 6*

INSIDE

Lockerbie handover

A group of Arab diplomats arrived in Libya to oversee the handing over to the UN of the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing. The UN's chief legal counsel will then fly the two men to The Netherlands where their trial under Scottish law will begin in the next next few days .... Page 12

Post Office buying spree

The Post Office is planning to spend up to £1.5 billion taking over rival postal businesses overseas. The plan may anger consumer groups which want the organisation to improve domestic services .... Page 48

‘No sellout’

Republican leaders sought to placate grass roots fears of a Sinn Fein sellout by describing the latest Anglo-Irish demands for the IRA to disarm as dangerous and provocative .... Page 10

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Tim Henman after his Davis Cup win yesterday

Henman lifts home hearts

Tim Henman outfought Todd Martin 4-6 7-5 6-3 7-6 (7-4) in an enthralling Davis Cup match yesterday to bring Great Britain level 2-2 with one singles still to play.

With both men increasingly exhausted after the previous two days, Henman went for his shots and managed to turn around the world group first-round match that appeared a lost cause. He also proved to the ecstatic 9,500 crowd in Birmingham that he can respond to the most intense pressure.

Henman's match hinged on a questionable line call after Martin had broken for a 4-3 lead in the second set and was leading 30-15. A Martin volley was called out to the annoyance of the American team.

Martin, still gnawing at what he saw as a hometown decision, allowed Henman to break back and the balance of the match suddenly shifted. Henman won seven of the next eight games and Martin was mentally a beaten man.

"To be frank I think the match turned on a questionable call and then the crowd started to roar," Henman said. "I think it was in, but it just goes to show how something so small can change a match. Suddenly it was 4-4 and I'm back in there."

Martin, one of the most unperturbable men in tennis, agreed the disputed call had been vital although he was angry with himself that he had allowed it to distract him.

Henman's tie, page 25

US airlift plan for refugees sows confusion

Allies disagree over tactics for dealing with disaster, writes Daniel McGrory in Skopje

CONFUSION last night surrounded the planned evacuation of 100,000 Kosovan refugees to Europe and the US.

The rescue operation was announced yesterday by President Clinton's emissary, Julia Taft, after she saw the misery of the thousands stranded on a muddy riverbank on the Macedonian frontier.

The US assistant secretary of state called the ambitious airlift "a burden-sharing exercise", adding: "It will begin in the next few days and we will take large numbers in temporary asylum until they can go home in safety."

After wading through ankle-deep mud to speak to refugees she said: "American, Britain and other governments will announce the exact numbers they are prepared to take at a summit in Brussels on Tuesday."

Her announcement clearly caught British officials by surprise as they thought they had succeeded at the weekend in persuading the Skopje Government to allow the refugees a sanctuary in Macedonia.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, persuaded the authorities to let British troops build a "tented city" at Brazbe, four miles from the squalor of the makeshift refugee camp at the Blace border post.

Emma Bonino, the European Union aid Commissioner, directly criticised plans to fly refugees to distant temporary shelters and predicted horrendous practical problems.

"How do you choose 10,000 refugees?," she asked. "How do you take them away? How do you airlift 50,000 people? It made more sense to pay neighboring countries to provide shelter."

The Brussels meeting tomorrow will consider plans for distributing at least 100,000 of the refugees among the 15 EU member states. Britain would take 10,000, Germany 40,000, Greece 5,000 and Norway 6,000. In addition Turkey is to accept 20,000, Canada 5,000 and the United States 20,000. Other countries have offered to take unspecified numbers.

Nato is determined that the refugees should eventually go home. "The idea is not to have a new refugee population floating around Europe," Jamie Shea, Nato's spokesman, said.

More than 300,000 Kosovo Albanians have now been expelled by Serbian forces since the Nato offensive began. Nato estimates that at the current rate, President Milosevic could empty the province of its 1.8 million ethnic Albanians within two weeks.

British charities yesterday agreed that efforts should be made to house the refugees in neighbouring Balkan states before sending them to Britain and other European countries.

An Oxfam spokeswoman said: "We welcome any move to help refugees, but taking them away from the region should only be done if there is no other way of looking after them. Our view is that in the long term the refugees should be able to return home. Therefore it is best that they should be housed as close to Kosovo as possible."

Save the Children also expressed concern about "displacing" large numbers of refugees. A spokesman said: "Staying close by is preferable and we are trying to give the help and support needed on to enable this to happen.

"There are always issues about displacing people from their networks of support, such as family and friends, so removing them to different countries in Western Europe is not necessarily the ideal option. Our understanding from working with these refugees is they want support in returning home as soon as possible.

Hundreds of British troops meanwhile laboured to finish the tented camp at Brazbe. The first 2,000 refugees arrived in six buses last night. They were registered by Macedonian officials and given their first hot meal in more than a week, prepared by British Army chefs.

The tented sanctuary, built on wasteland beside a factory on the main road from the border, can shelter up to 100,000 refugees. Nato troops are building five other camps inside Macedonia.

The British view is that the refugees should stay here, fed and policed by British troops, until diplomatic settlement means they can be repatriated.

However, Macedonian officials said yesterday they regard the new tent city as a "transit camp". One senior official said: "The refugees can be registered, given medical help, sheltered and fed but only till another country can accommodate them. We can't."

The Macedonians say they only allowed the construction of the camp to facilitate the evacuation operation.

Clare Short, the overseas aid Minister, seemed confused about details of the evacuation plan when she arrived in Macedonia yesterday. Asked about the numbers Britain was taking, she said: "We're trying to help but as I've only just got here ask me when I leave."

She is due to visit Blace later today. By then she will have met government ministers, charities and Nato chiefs about how best to deal with the crisis. A column of another 80,000 refugees said to stretch more than 40 miles is heading towards the Macedonian frontier where troops are under orders to stop them crossing.

It was the plight of these refugees that caused the Americans to make their sudden announcement yesterday. Mrs Taft was adamant the airlift would begin today using returning empty aid flights. "We all have to help and I have pledges from many governments. This is only temporary asylum. We want these people to go home."

She said the Americans and others are considering chartering ships to move the huge numbers involved.

One senior US official visiting Macedonia said: "There has been some armtwisting on both sides in the past 24 hours. You will see Skopje getting substantial aid but the refugees need help. So call it a ransom demand if you wish, but something has to be done."

British charities have been inundated with offers of support, both financial and practical, with many people offering free accommodation.

John Rubenstein, a lawyer with two sons, was disappointed after ringing the British Army, offering a room in his family home in Wandsworth, south-west London. He said: "After seeing distressing news reports of the thousands stranded by the Macedonian border closure, I felt that I had to do something to help. The Macedonians are saying that they can only come through if they have somewhere to go. But when I rang the Army, they could not advise me what to do."

Mr Rubenstein, whose grandfather took in a Jewish refugee in London during the Second World War, said: "I am sure there are hundreds like me. The government should draw up a list of volunteers."

Vourneen Gleeson, of west London, who rang *The Times* asking for advice on the best way to help, said: "I have a big house with empty rooms."

However, charities urged people to pledge money rather than accommodation as they prepared to launch an appeal tomorrow. The Disasters Emergency Committee is to make television and newspapers appeals on behalf of 12 aid agencies, including the British Red Cross, Oxfam, Save the Children, Help the Aged and Christian Aid.

Individual appeals by the British Red Cross and Oxfam launched in the middle of last week have already raised £86,000.

A spokeswoman for Christian Aid said: "We have had about 900 calls but none of the charities has been going full tilt until now because we wanted to see what the level of need would be."

Small local appeals have also been established, such as the East Midlands Kosovo Appeal set up on Friday by the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottingham.

Rome: Italy, which already has a sizeable population of Albanian immigrants, has made clear it would prefer refugees to stay in Albania and has set up refugee camps in Kukes and Durres. It has prepared refugee camps along the southern coast, but has argued that refugees should stay as close as possible to their homeland.

Leading article & Letters, page 21



http://www.mod.uk/news/kosovo/ Latest news from MoD on air strikes
http://www.unhcr.ch/ Homepage of UN High Comissioner for Refugees
http://www.state.gov/www/regions/eur/kosovo_hp.html US State Department briefing on Kosovo



Cook accused of lying over crisis

JOHN BRUTON, the former Irish Prime Minister, last night accused Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, of not telling the truth about the refugee crisis prompted by attacks on Yugoslavia.

Mr Bruton, the leader of Ireland's Fine Gael main opposition party, said Mr Cook was "simply not making a truthful statement when he said no one could have foreseen a refugee crisis on the scale of the one now happening in the Balkans following the Nato decision to bomb Yugoslavia while refusing to commit ground troops under any circumstances".

The former Dublin premier added: "He is wrong. The present refugee crisis was not only foreseeable, it was foreseen. It is profoundly dishonest to pretend otherwise."

Mr Bruton said he had predicted the crisis himself before the bombing, and pointed to a prediction made in Berlin by the Swedish opposition leader and former Bosnia mediator Carl Bildt, who forecast one million refugees within two weeks of the start of the bombing.

Mr Bruton said: "The whole disastrous operation was driven by the something-must-be-done school of diplomacy, generated by television images and image-conscious politicians.

"Kosovo is in Europe. It is a European problem. The vagaries of United States public opinion should not be dictating either what wars are started in Europe, or how they are conducted."

Mr Bruton called for a four-day pause in the bombing to coincide with next weekend's Orthodox Christian Easter, and said that a European figure not involved in the Nato decision should be requested to seek a negotiated settlement in that period.

☐ Paris: France cannot accept "massive" numbers of Kosovo refugees, preferring the despatch of humanitarian aid to help them out in countries bordering Kosovo, a government source said. "The essential thing is to ensure that the Kosovans can return to their homeland," the source said. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, was said to be dealing with humanitarian matters.

Video footage strengthens the West's resolve to end violence

By Michael Evans

THESE shocking video pictures of Albanians killed by the Serbs in Kosovo on the day the Nato bombing campaign started reinforced the alliance's determination yesterday to end the violence in the Yugoslav province.

The video, taken covertly by an ethnic Albanian, Milian Bellanica, and shown on BBC television at the weekend, revealed the gruesome death of about 100 men from the village of Krusa-E-Madhe, near Pec on March 24.

Of the 19 bodies shown in the two-minute film, many appeared to have been shot in the back of the neck. Mr Bellanica said 100 men, most aged between 20 and 30, had been murdered.

Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, said yesterday: "The reports of atrocities took a gruesome turn with the film shown by the BBC about the grisly massacre of 19 men in the village of Krusa-E-Madhe."


The body of an Albanian in a secretly made film

He added: "That film shows in vivid terms the barbarity of Serbian troops and police, and explains all too clearly why thousands of people are fleeing Kosovo."

Mr Bellacina, who smuggled the video across the Kosovo border into Albania, told the BBC: "They were killed one by one. A group of Serbs were on the top of the hill. Others came from behind. Our men were captured and the Serbs killed them one after the other."

He added: "I have done this so that my son, my grandson, the next generation, will never forget what the Serbs have done to the Albanian people."

The women and children and elderly in the village had been taken away, and some of the men had tried to escape but were shot, Mr Bellacina said. He produced a list of 26 names of the men who had been killed.

He told the BBC that he had hidden for a week before smuggling the video out of Kosovo.

☐ **Aid call:** Alex Salmond last night called for a massive increase in humanitarian aid to save the lives of Kosovan Albanian refugees. The Scottish National Party leader said Nato had an "inescapable responsibility" to step up the aid effort and called for as much to be spent on humanitarian relief as on the bombing campaign. Mr Salmond provoked fury by criticising the campaign in a television broadcast last week. At a function of Scots Asians for Independence in Paisley, he called for a "humanitarian front" to be opened and reiterated his claim that the bombing campaign was counterproductive.

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Fleeing families detained in PoW camps



Daniel McGrory in Radusa witnesses the plight of fenced-in ethnic Albanians refused entry by Macedonia



Ethnic Albanian refugees, many separated from their families, are fenced in by Macedonian guards amid misery and squalor at the Radusa camp yesterday

THEY thought they had found sanctuary after fleeing Kosovo, but 1,000 refugees were last night held at gunpoint in what they described as a hilltop prison camp.

Hanging on to the wire fencing, they pleaded with Macedonian soldiers to let them contact relatives willing to shelter them, but their cries were ignored. Two men who climbed over the wire were beaten by troops in riot gear who threw them, bleeding, back into the compound, shouting they would shoot anyone else trying to escape.

In the past week these men — like the other thousand occupants of this camp in Radusa — have been forced from their homes by masked Serb gunmen, herded onto trains, made to walk five miles through minefields and then stranded at a muddy ravine at the frontier without food or shelter.

Rudi Fukta, 36, pointed to the Macedonian soldiers, saying: "Is this the world's idea of helping the Kosovan refugees, to point machineguns at us in a prison camp?"

The occupants at Radusa were given no choice in where they were taken after they were moved from the border at the weekend. All yesterday friends and family waited at the gates of the main camp hoping their relatives behind the wire could go home with them. Some offered bribes to the camp guards. As darkness fell, almost all left disappointed, promising to return today with food and clothes.

Feriz Dinarici was not prepared to wait another night to free his two-year-old daughter. Whispering to her, he pushed the frightened child under the sharp wire fence where his sister was waiting on the other side. Ajita, aged two, screamed as the wire scratched her face and tried to hold onto the fence shouting she did not want to be parted from her father. Her aunt had put her hand across Ajita's mouth to stifle the child's cries, fearing it would alert the police guard, who was swapping cigarettes just yards away.

Touching his daughter's face, Mr Dinarici told her: "Go, go now and be safe. I will see you soon." As the crowd helped to smuggle her away he sank to his knees in the mud, weeping uncontrollably.

His wife had died six months ago, he said. "My child is all I have. Our home has gone, all our possessions are lost, and I don't know when or if I will leave here."

The thousand Kosovans taken by bus along the narrow path to this tented camp were not told where they were going. Many had been separated from family in the chaos at the border and when they arrived in darkness at Radusa, they waited all night in the hope they would be reunited.

Mimola Huti, 18, last saw her father being hit by a police truncheon as he struggled to help her and her sister, Besa, 16, to clamber up the muddy slope to where a bus was already pulling away.

Miss Huti explained she had a family in Skopje and Turkey who could accommodate them. "So why are we humiliated like this in a prison? There is one toilet for 600 women and children. We only get bread and cartons of milk.

"There's no electricity or running water. We have to collect our water in plastic bottles and then wash in the open. We sleep on the grass which is so wet it soaks through the sleeping bags. It is degrading and unnecessary when most of us have places to go. No one will tell us what has happened to our father. If he is still at the frontier, he cannot last there much longer, as he has a heart condition."

Twenty-three refugees died in the mud on the Blace frontier over the weekend, including one woman as she gave birth to her first child. Ten other children were born in the middle of this squalor on the riverside as relatives tried to find a scrap of clean blanket or cloth to keep the newborn infants warm.

> 'Is this the world's idea of helping us, pointing machineguns at us?'

Two hundred yards away from where they were sinking in ankle-deep mud, cardboard boxes of blankets and sleeping bags were left in the rain by the roadside.

One exhausted Red Cross medic described how he tried to reach a woman who had gone into labour as a soldier lashed out at him with a truncheon.

Xhelal Aziri said: "He kept hitting me on the chest and I put up my arms to protect my head. The woman was screaming and the crowd were pushing her forward towards me. She was trying to hold on to her other children, who could have been no more than three years old.

"People are also losing their mind in that field. We know at least four have tried to kill themselves. This is an inhuman way to treat people who have suffered enough."

One man knelt by the stretcher where his father lay dead. He spent an hour trying to brush the mud from the blanket that only partly covered the old man's body as a succession of voluntary aid workers walked past him, ignoring his plight. "How can they allow a man to escape the Serbs and then die in a friendly country?"

Throughout the day a succession of diplomats, local politicians, aid organisers and other VIPs came to see the disgrace of Blace for themselves. They all left shaking their heads, saying something must be done urgently but could not say exactly what.

President Clinton's emissary, Julia Taft, a US co-ordinator for refugee relief, walked in her boots to the edge of the crowd and told them: "Milosevic is to blame for this and we and Nato are here to help you." When it was apparent she had no food or drink to offer, nor could she help those at the front of this sea of faces to be allowed into Macedonia, the crowd turned away in disappointment.

Sheets or brown plastic sheeting were strung out between the few trees that had not been cut down for firewood. Women queued in their thousands to wash clothes, drink and defecate in the same stream.

The few health workers at Blace appealed last night for more water tanks, warning cholera could take a grip among the 40,000 refugees here, some of whom had been waiting for four days. On a railway track behind them, another 60,000 refugees are said to be trapped in no man's land. A cordon of Macedonian soldiers are preventing any aid workers reaching these forgotten fugitives.

The aid operation is still woefully slow, with Western charities complaining that authorities in Skopje are preventing them from launching the massive supply line needed to help those stranded at the frontier and those still being expelled from Kosovo. One British charity gave up yesterday and sent 30,000 packed meals it had to Albania instead.

Yugoslav security forces meanwhile kept up the pressure on Macedonia's borders yesterday, driving another trainload of refugees at gunpoint to join tens of thousands in a sea of mud and excrement.

Witnesses said the security forces fired guns over the heads of ethnic Albanian refugees as they were forced to walk from the train about two miles from Blace, a border post about a half-hour's drive from Skopje, the capital of Macedonia.

Yannis Behrakis, a Reuters photographer, was one of a handful of journalists who managed to bypass heavy police cordons and get into the refugee field where about 50,000 people are stranded in a no man's land of misery and filth. "It is crazy," Mr Behrakis said. "The ground is covered with human excrement and they (the refugees) are fighting for food."

British aid workers warned to expect Skopje hostility

Albanian leaders in Macedonia say the authorities are blackmailing the West, **Daniel McGrory** writes

BRITISH aid workers are being warned not to drive their vehicles after dark in Skopje as the backlash begins in Macedonia over the thousands of refugees pouring across its borders.

A car owned by one British charity was vandalised and a volunteer was threatened by a gang of youths in the capital at the weekend.

A senior British aid official said: "The mood is polarising in this country about what to do with the refugees, and I fear we and Nato will feel the effect of it very soon."

The six British charities here say the Macedonian authorities are being "deliberately obstructive" in registering aid organisations to help in the humanitarian crisis.

Children's Aid Direct waited so long they decided to divert the 37,000 food parcels meant for Macedonia to Albania instead.

Government ministers insisted last night Macedonia will take no more refugees. More than 115,000 are believed to be in the country already and another 60,000 are trapped in no man's land in minefields close to the frontier. Thousands more are still being expelled from Kosovo.

Local Albanian leaders accused the Skopje Government of using the refugees as ransom to get millions in Western aid.

Arben Jafare, leader of the Democratic Party of the Albanians, which is part of the ruling coalition, said Albanian families here could accommodate at least 100,000 refugees, many of whom are relatives.

He complained that only Albanian schools had been closed in order to be used as temporary shelters and that the Government had gone back on a plan to use gymnasiums and the national football stadium after protests from its Slav supporters.

Ministers ruled that in future the refugees would go where they were told and be held in camps until other countries accepted them.

The Slav parties argue that if Macedonia allows an open border the delicate ethnic mix of the country will be violently upset. Radmilla Kiprijanova, the Deputy Prime Minister, said at the weekend: "The refugees will disturb public order and cause the economic collapse of the state and threaten our political security." Police are investigating whether a shooting in the capital at the weekend was related to the growing ethnic rivalry.

Albanians already make up nearly 40 per cent of the population. One government official said: "If 250,000 or more come, as some estimates expect, then in a population of two million it is bound to cause upset."

The language being used by ministers is increasingly inflammatory. Pavel Trajanov, the Internal Affairs Minister, said one reason for strict border controls was that fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army were trying to find sanctuary posing as refugees. He said the refugees were carrying diseases that Albania has eradicated. He then hinted the Government might ban demonstrations over the treatment of the refugees.

Slav commentators described the country as being on a "war footing" as military reserves were called up in a general mobilisation. The Government is worried that if an independent Kosovo is established in any eventual diplomatic settlement, the majority Albanians in western Macedonia will elect to join their kinsmen.

"We will not allow our state to fragment as the rest of Yugoslavia has done, with bloody consequences," a senior government source said. "Our economy is fragile and we can't afford this influx."

The number of unemployed is more than 300,000, though the Albanians say their communities suffer worst.

US diplomats visiting Macedonia at the weekend say the Government is looking for substantial aid packages and help with its existing debts. The Government has asked the EU for a large loan, saying: "We don't need food supplies, we need money."

Ministers were reluctant to allow Nato to get involved in the humanitarian relief operation, fearing that this might provoke the Serbs.

There was criticism of Nato's air attacks after reports that two stray Harm missiles had fallen on two border villages in the past 72 hours.

Nato was accused of showing "a very unserious attitude to this problem" by Aleksandr Teimitrov, the Foreign Minister. Nato chiefs in Skopje say they are investigating the stray missiles.

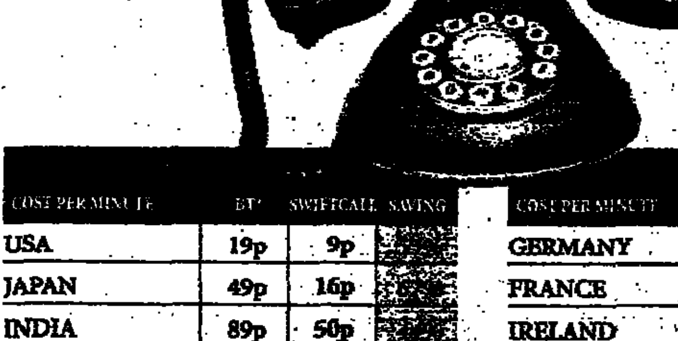
□ Tirana: Albania is willing to accept up to 100,000 Kosovo refugees on the Macedonian border, provided it is given the resources to look after them, Otto Schily, Germany's Interior Minister, said yesterday. "The Albanian Government is willing to take in a contingent of up to 100,000 on condition that the international community guarantees the necessary support," he told reporters while visiting a refugee camp here. "Albania cannot do it on its own."

Herr Schily, speaking after meeting Pandeli Majko, the Albanian Prime Minister, said it might be necessary to provide financial support to the Government as well as aid supplies.

"I can't decide that off the cuff here, but basically we will have to help in this way as well," he said. *(Reuters)*

Refugees waiting on a bus at the Macedonian border village of Blace, where about 50,000 people are being kept isolated in makeshift camps with scant supplies

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BALKANS WAR: THE AID OPERATION

Mercy flights start to reach border victims



The aid race is on against hunger, exposure and an increasing risk of dysentery, writes **Sam Kiley** in Kukes

AMERICAN and French helicopters arrived in Albania yesterday, carrying emergency aid to hundreds of thousands of refugees whose exodus from Kosovo threatens to overwhelm local authorities.

The aircraft will establish an air bridge in a belated attempt to bring food and shelter to about 200,000 exhausted and terrified refugees. Yesterday they continued to pour through three border points into Albania, fleeing what Nato has called President Milosevic's attempt at "ethnic re-engineering".

Near Kukes, a border town in northeast Albania which has borne the brunt of the exodus, the first helicopters touched down with desperately needed food. About 1,200lb of military rations were flown from Tirana airport, where the first planes bringing international humanitarian aid landed. The helicopters, which had been in Bosnia with the Nato-led stabilisation force, will bring 1.5 tonnes of aid a day to Kukes, linked to the rest of Albania by one crumbling road.

Stunned by the lack of planning by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Nato for a refugee emergency when Nato began airstrikes two weeks ago, the Albanian Government has taken over co-ordination of an operation which will involve up to 8,000 Nato troops on Albanian territory.

"The UN could have predicted this disaster. We did. We didn't expect it to be so big, but it doesn't take a genius to see that if you start a war there will be refugees, especially as there was already 'ethnic cleansing' in Albania," said a spokesman for the Tirana Government. He said his administration could cope only with the 200,000 people estimated to have fled into Albania so far. "We expect to get up to half a million, some say more. There is no way we could cope with that," he said.

In Kukes, the administrative headquarters of the relief effort, the price of food and other basics has more than doubled. Local people as well as the refugees face severe food shortages, and aid workers received the first reports of an outbreak of dysentery.

But for tens of thousands of Kosovo Albanians, the prospect of being held in a Nato refugee camp would be a luxury compared with what they have recently endured.

Last Friday at midnight Serbs came into the Dajkavica home of Susanna Sahia and ordered the men to separate from the women. "They demanded money and threatened to shoot one of our men, or a baby. I paid them, and then they shot my husband," she said.

> ‘They wanted money, so I paid them. Then they shot my husband’

Dajkavica's original population of 120,000 had been swollen by about 50,000 displaced people from earlier purges. With the latest Serb pogrom now into high gear, most have been forced to flee on foot south through the Monice border crossing or to negotiate a narrow mountain track through a minefield to the windswept and freezing crossing at Qafa e Prushit.

At the weekend refugees tramped to safety through the crossing at a rate of 90 per minute. The scale of the Serb ethnic cleansing and battles with what remains of the Kosovo Liberation Army could be gauged by the near-constant thump of artillery and mortars in the distance. Heavy cloud apparently prevented Nato from striking back at tanks and artillery which have been turned on civilian homes to hasten the exodus of Kosovo's 1.8 million ethnic Albanians. Hoping to find food, shelter, and clean water, they were bitterly disappointed. The refugees arrived on the muddy pass and collapsed on soaking ground only to be told to keep walking. "Try to get to shelter by nightfall," was the best advice the handful of aid workers at the border could offer.

Asim Dema, a typesetter, said that he had seen the bodies of 27 people in Djakovica who had been burnt by the Serbs in their home. He said he kept his eyes down as he walked past Serbs who put a young man against a wall and shot him.

"The whole city is being burnt. We were given no time to pack, we were just thrown onto the street," he said as he continued to walk among a stream of people about ten miles long.

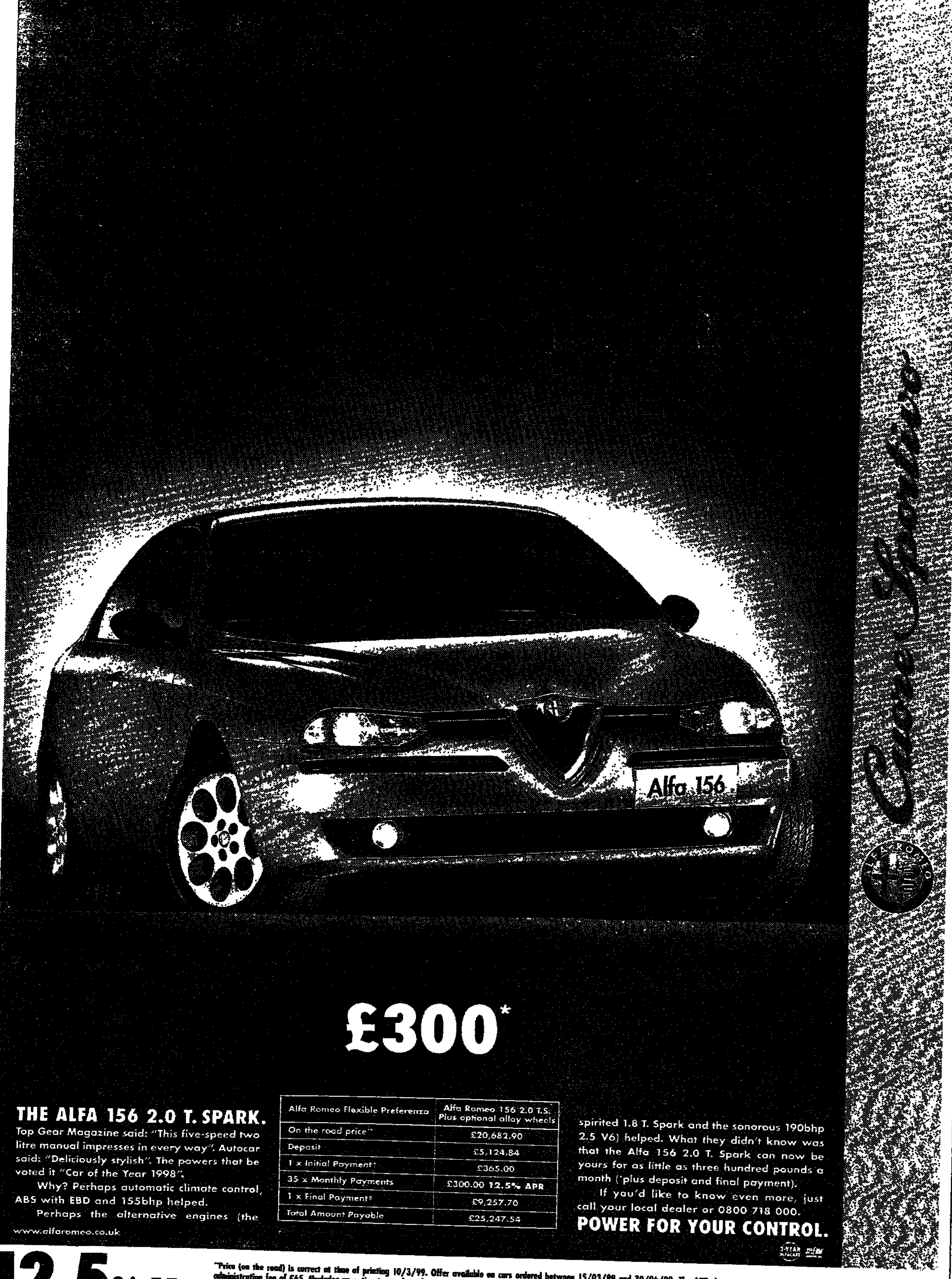
They marched under the gaze of a Serb position about 100 yards from the crossing. The elderly and disabled were carried in wheelbarrows.

Ama Annan, a spokeswoman for the British charity Christian Aid, acknowledged that the aid agencies had been caught off guard by the disaster. Yesterday she witnessed three deaths. A six-month-old baby died overnight on a freezing hillside along with her mother. An elderly man was found dead in his blankets.



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS /

Refugee children race to meet the first French army helicopters bringing humanitarian aid to makeshift camps at Kukes in Albania yesterday



Montenegrins prepared to die for Serbia

Villagers show their support for Milosevic, writes **Janine di Giovanni**

HERE in Raci, a remote village 25 miles outside Podgorica, the Montenegrin capital, there are no "traitors" and no "servants of Nato". This is hardcore Slobodan Milosevic country, and the simple people who live in this barren farming area say they would die for a united Serbia.

If the political graffiti etched on the walls are any indication, these people are more than extreme: "All Serbs united in Serbia", the slogan used throughout the "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is painted on buildings.

In a small café a portrait of Mr Milosevic hangs on the wall and underneath it, drinking a beer and painting his vision of the future of Montenegro is Rajko Rajkovic, a worker whose family has lived in Raci for generations. He is not a Montenegrin, he says fiercely, but a proud Serb. "And since the Nato bombing," he says, "I am even more of a Serb. Someone is going to stay in this country. And it will be the Serbs. They can't shoot every single one of us."

His wife, Divna, and his three children nod in agreement. Other villagers are openly hostile to foreigners after the Nato bombing of the bridges in Belgrade and Novi Sad.

Like many people, the villagers of Raci are preparing for a long war. If fighting broke out, it would be between those who are loyal to the pro-West President Djukanovic, and those who follow Mr Milosevic and his puppet, Momir Bulatovic, Prime Minister of the federal Government, whose relatives come from this village. In the hills above Podgorica, there are more tanks and hardware moving on the roads and earlier in the week there were armed police snipers loyal to President Djukanovic on the rooftops of the parliament building.

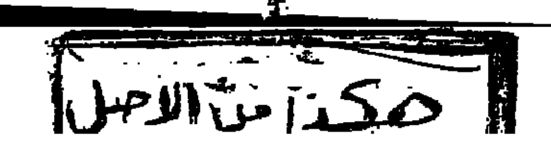
There is also a sense of impending doom: everyone here is terrified of being drawn into the conflict that is taking place three hours from the capital. Already there has been an exodus of Muslim Montenegrins who fear what might happen should Mr Milosevic and his troops move in here as is expected. To ensure that does not happen, a stream of characters loyal to the Government have turned up. One of them, a distinguished 80-year-old general from Belgrade (who asked not to be identified for the sake of his family) arrived here ten days ago to fight if needed.

One of the more heroic fighters of the partisan war, he also comes from Cetinje and is fiercely proud of his Montenegrin roots. By the age of 21, he was plucked from his Young Communist group to lead a battalion of 340 men ambushing Italian tanks and fighting in the mountains of Bosnia during the bloody winter war of 1941-42.

"One rose quickly in those days," he says. "At that time, you became older and more clever with double speed. Events made us older." After the war, he became a National Hero, Yugoslavia's highest distinction, and was later a distinguished diplomat.

When the bombing began 11 days ago, he began to hear rumours of trouble brewing in Montenegro. He left his invalid wife, son and grandchildren and drove straight down.

"I said, I must go to my people, to my country," he says. "Okay. I'm old, but I can be of some use. I can give advice. I can even fight with the younger people if that is what they need," he adds.



هكذا من الأصل

Germans fear repetition of Bosnia burden

Kosovo crisis promises more asylum-seekers, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn

GERMANY, which took on more than 300,000 refugees during the Bosnian and Croatian conflicts, is bracing itself for a new wave of asylum seekers from Kosovo.

This time, though, it wants a strict share-out of refugees among European Union countries, with larger states such as Britain shouldering a bigger share of the burden.

The country's bishops used their Easter sermons yesterday to urge Germans to accept more refugees and not regard them as a burden. How many refugees are destined for Germany, and how quickly they will arrive, was still unclear. "We will take an appropriate number," Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, said at the weekend.

Officials said that probably meant about 10,000 Kosovans out of a total of 20,000 who will be allocated to the European Union. But these numbers are only vague target figures.

For about a year thousands of Kosovo Albanians have been crossing the Czech border into Germany, paying up to £3,000 each to "people smugglers". These same groups are trawling the makeshift refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania: in return for life savings or for the firm promise of cash from relatives already in Germany, the smugglers undertake to remove whole families from their misery.

Four thousand Kosovans arrived in Germany last year by these illegal channels. Border police believe that many more will now come across the steep wooded paths of the Lausitz mountains bordering south-eastern Germany.

Otto Schily, the Interior Minister, arrived yesterday in Macedonia and is expected to make a recommendation to the Bonn Government by the middle of the week.

He will probably propose large on-the-spot assistance — the German Air Force is already flying out 100 tonnes of food and medicine a day — immediate acceptance for a small number of medically urgent cases, and a larger quota to be worked out with other EU states.

Refugee lobby groups such as Pro Asyl want far more. "Since 200,000 Bosnians have returned home since the signing of the Dayton agreement, there is space available for the Kosovans," said a Pro Asyl spokesman.

The large influx of Bosnians in the early 1990s put an almost intolerable burden on the German political system. Many were put in improvised mobile homes on the fringes of east German villages.

This sparked resentment from the east Germans, who were unhappy at the way they have been treated by Bonn after unification. The friction contributed to the rise of radical neo-Nazi groups and racist violence in the mid-1990s. Asylum rules were tightened by the Government and it is now not uncommon for refugees to be rejected immediately at the airport and sent back by the same plane. Under the rules the asylum-seekers passing through a "safe country" — such as neighbouring Poland or the Czech Republic — must first claim asylum there.

At the Berlin summit ten days ago, European Union leaders had issued a warning that "on the eve of the 21st century Europe cannot tolerate a humanitarian catastrophe". But instead of offering to welcome refugees with open arms the European leaders said they had a "duty to ensure the return [of refugees] to their homes". The aim was to keep Kosovo refugees in the Balkans. This line has buckled somewhat because of the emotional power of television footage of the ragged refugees on the Kosovo border.

EPA



Bosnian orphans who spent four years in Germany are returned to Sarajevo at the weekend. Now Germans await a wave of Kosovan refugees



Srebenica fugitives at a UN camp in 1995. A Bosnian influx to east Germany created tensions there

Pacifists take the lead in world of war

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Germany's Easter marchers have been turning out in their thousands in the first serious anti-war protest since the Gulf War. Pacifism, it is said, is set for a revival, and the Bonn Government — made up of two parties with pacifist traditions — could soon be heading for trouble. Certainly, there is unease at the grassroots. At the weekend, the Greens pressed for a special party congress to set the limits of military engagement.

Yet there is unlikely to be a revolution. Wars can consolidate power. Gerhard Schröder looks stronger than at any time since winning the elections last autumn. He is flanked by his Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping — once regarded as a beardless failure but now tipped to be the next Nato Secretary-General — and by the Green Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer.

All three were once stern critics of US policy in Vietnam. Now, in taking Germany into its first war for over half a century, they look like the men who really run the country.

It is Herr Fischer's task to keep his party on side in the Social Democratic-Green Government. He does this by presenting Nato as the military wing of Amnesty International. A recent headline captured the spirit: "Dictators Look Out — The 1968ers Are In Charge".

It is in the nature of the new crusaders that the European interest — peace on the continent — takes precedence over the rather ill-defined German national interest. The utopianism of the 1968ers has thus evolved from stone-throwing anti-Americanism to support for bomb-dropping American planes — a strange transition, but one with an internal logic embraced by the Green power elite, if not by their voters.

For both sides of the debate, the reference point is the Holocaust. The pro-war writers and politicians say Germany's tragedy was its failure to get rid of Hitler before he embarked on mass murder. The anti-war faction says Germany's debt to Europe — and especially to Serbia, which suffered terribly — is to keep its bombers on the ground.

The most fundamental problem, though, centres on the *sincerity* of the US commitment. It is that germ of doubt, nervously suppressed, that has the capacity to split open the Social Democratic and Green Parties. There is a cynical whisper going around Bonn, and it is this: what if America is merely using the Kosovo war as a rehearsal for the war it really wants to fight — the one that ousts Saddam Hussein?

As a foreign affairs article recently pointed out, the Clinton Administration has been considering the "roll back" options for Saddam. The policy mix looks uncannily like that currently being applied in the Balkans: airstrikes, funding, arming and training the opposition. Whatever political settlement emerges out of Kosovo, it will demand a decade of on-the-ground enforcement.

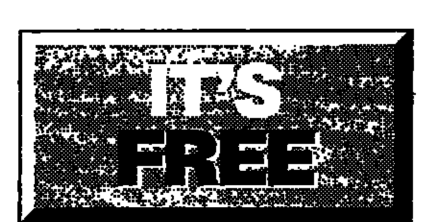
American concentration, my world-weary German friends suggest, may well waiver.

Colonel Gaddafi survived Ronald Reagan; Saddam survived George Bush. Perhaps, just perhaps, President Clinton would like to leave office as the man who finally toppled Saddam. If so, peace in the Balkans will become an almost exclusively European responsibility — a thought that terrifies the Germans.

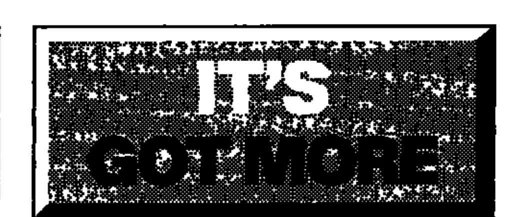
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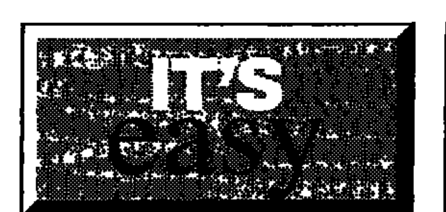
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BALKANS WAR: THE CHURCHES' VIEW

Pope prays for lifeline

Pontiff's Easter plea is for 'a corridor of hope', writes **Richard Owen** in Rome

THE Pope, whose diplomatic initiatives to end the war in Kosovo have fallen on deaf ears, yesterday made an impassioned plea for Belgrade to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened so help could be sent to the mass of people stranded on the borders.

In his Easter message in St Peter's Square, he spoke of "a corridor of hope" amid "the din of war, the whistle of shells and the fire of bombs".

Giving his traditional *Urbi Et Orbi* address the Pope, 78, appeared deeply troubled by what he called "this tragic spectacle of hatred and violence". He spoke under sunny skies on a warm spring day to a crowd of more than 150,000, offering Easter greetings in 60 languages, including Serbo-Croat and Albanian.

But his tone was sombre, almost despairing. "How can Christ's message of joy and hope be made to resound when so many parts of the world are submerged in sorrow and tears?" he asked. "How can we speak of peace when people are forced to flee, when they are hunted down and their homes are burnt to the ground, when the heavens are rent by the din of war, when the whistle of shells is heard around people's homes and the ravaging fire of bombs consumes towns and villages?" St Peter's Square was decorated with olive trees from Apulia in southern Italy, the region which lies directly opposite Kosovo across the Adriatic, and which includes Gioia del Colle, near Bari, where 12 RAF Harriers are based.



The Pope pauses yesterday during his Easter Mass

The Pope, speaking in a strong voice despite recurrent illness, added sternly: "Enough of this cruel shedding of human blood. When will there be an end to this diabolical spiral of revenge and senseless fratricidal conflict?"

He said he was invoking the "precious gift of peace" for "the devastated land of Kosovo, where tears and blood continue to mingle in a tragic spectacle of hatred and violence. I think of those who have been killed, of those made homeless, of those torn from their families, of those being forced to flee".

No one could remain insensitive to the "sorrowful flood of men and women from Kosovo who are knocking at our door begging for help".

The Pope, who had earlier appealed in vain for an Easter ceasefire, last week sent Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, his Foreign Minister, to Belgrade. Vatican officials noted that the Orthodox Easter falls next weekend, a week after the Western celebration.

Yesterday the Pope said he felt duty bound to "make a heartfelt appeal to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened". There could be "no frontiers to impede the work of solidarity; corridors of hope are always an imperative".

The Pope said he was also thinking of Africa, "where the distressing fires of war are slow to disappear"; of Asia, "where dangerous social tensions are far from abating", and Latin America, where nations were "committed to advancing on a laborious and uneven path towards the goals of greater justice and democracy".

The Pope declared that "in the face of persistent evidence of war and the countless grievous defeats of life, Christ the conquerer of sins and death urges us not to surrender". He hoped the new millennium would overcome the culture of hatred, violence and death.

The Pope, who lived through the Second World War in his native Poland, surprised the crowd by changing his text at the start of the Mass. He said he wanted to dedicate the service "to peace in the Balkans, to respect for the rights of man in the martyred land of Kosovo and to the flood of refugees".

During the Mass, a participant at the altar read a special prayer saying: "We pray that in the Balkans, with goodwill from both sides, the weapons will fall silent and negotiations will be restarted aimed at a true and lasting peace."

PHIL HOUGHTON / KENT NEWS & PICTURES



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, making his entry to the cathedral yesterday before giving his Easter sermon

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2 INSERT THE MISSING PAIR.









3 FIND THE ODD ONE OUT.

a. ODRO c. HWLEE
b. OOTB d. EERT

4 WHICH OF THESE SHAPES DOES NOT BELONG?





a. b. c. d. e.

5 WHAT ... STAR... SECOND?

SIDE (_ _ _) NATION

6 FIND THE WORD THAT CAN BE PREFIXED BY ALL THE FOLLOWING.

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7 LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FOLLOWING EQUATION. IS IT TRUE OR IS IT SO MIND NUMBINGLY AMAZING YOU CAN'T QUITE GET YOUR HEAD ROUND IT?

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answers:
Question 7 is true.
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numbingly amazing
as well.)

FOR THE OTHER ANSWERS, GO TO PAGE 6

Carey gives his blessing to bombing

By Elizabeth Judge and Ruth Gledhill

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, gave his support to the bombing of Yugoslavia yesterday in his Easter sermon at Canterbury.

Supporting Nato's bombing operation, he said: "In the Balkans, the evil of ethnic cleansing is leading to the crucifixion of Kosovo as the refugee crisis continues. Military action thus far is recognition that the civilised world cannot stand by and accept that evil should triumph."

The passage, inserted into the address at the last minute, added that skills and energy of similar intensity should be employed in "saving and protecting the lives of helpless and vulnerable people".

Dr Carey lamented the permanent nature of evil. He said: "Today we sing our Easter anthems but tomorrow violence, poverty, homelessness, greed, hatred, oppression and injustice will continue to plague our world."

Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo were among the places he named as examples of continuing hatred where "those whose trade is in continuing feuds and fostering violence have reaped a rich and deadly harvest".

He added: "In these dying months of the second millennium the world has not been immunised from evil. One result of the extraordinary development of modern science and technology has been a dramatic increase in our capacity to inflict even more horrifying evils upon one another and the fragile earth upon which we depend."

Dr Carey asked the population to support the appeal for refugees to be launched tomorrow by Christian Aid and other aid agencies.

The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, also reflected on the nature of evil in the light of the conflict, warning that the conflict was unlikely to be resolved readily or easily.

Preaching in York Minster, Dr Hope said: "Over the centuries Christianity has borne enormous calamities in this and many nations as the struggle between good and evil has been fought out in God's creation. What a paradox then that we celebrate the risen Christ's greeting and gift of peace against the background of conflict in Yugoslavia."

Dr Hope pleaded for a return to the negotiating table. "The search for peace is always complex and fraught with difficulties in any area of conflict — witness Northern Ireland and the Middle East — but that search must always be maintained."

He added: "The scenes we have been witnessing this last week must surely have caused us all to ponder and reflect more deeply on our human condition, on the frailty of our human nature and what it is which can provoke such hatred, wickedness and sheer evil — those hidden and hideous things which may be a little less blatantly obvious in our own lives, but only perhaps because our circumstances are so very different."

Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, prayed "for the people of Kosovo suffering so greviously and for a return to negotiations lest a greater tragedy overtakes us all" and asked people to respond generously to requests for material help.

The Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, said: "What matters at this stage of the conflict is an early resolve to achieve the goal we have set ourselves. The danger is that a ruthless ruler like Milosevic can make us hesitate and weaken. But to weaken now is in effect to hand the world over to those who are prepared to raise the stakes even higher through their unrestrained cruelty, in this case ethnic cleansing."

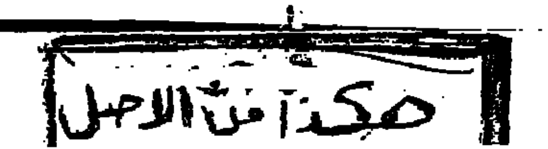
> 'Ethnic cleansing is leading to crucifixion of Kosovo'

The Right Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, warned Christians not to treat the Resurrection as a "consoling fiction" and Jesus as a "magical deliverer" who will rid the world of evil.

He said that evil "stalks" creation. He said: "Who among us this weekend is not filled with longing for peace in Yugoslavia? Which of us does not long for justice on Earth? We must join the living Jesus in changing the world, not escaping from it."



Cardinal Hume at Westminster Cathedral yesterday. He prayed for a return to negotiations over Kosovo



Americans to send in the Apaches

Damian Whitworth reports from Washington that Clinton is under pressure to use ground troops

PRESIDENT Clinton last night faced increasing pressure to back the use of ground troops in Kosovo after images of three captured soldiers and thousands of wretched refugees appeared to have convinced a majority of Americans that this was now the right thing to do.

A poll for *Newsweek* found that 54 per cent of Americans supported the use of ground troops and that 83 per cent believed troops should be sent in with the specific mission of rescuing the three prisoners of war. The popular tune was matched by an increasingly loud chorus from senior political figures.

The news of the poll came as the Clinton Administration confirmed that it was responding to a plea from Wesley Clark, the Nato commander, to send Apache helicopter gunships to Albania. They are expected to be based close to the Kosovo border with 2,000 ground troops and will then make raids on tank units and other Serb military targets. Senator John McCain, the Republican presidential candidate and former Vietnam PoW who has been leading the calls for troops to be sent into Kosovo, welcomed the deployment of Apaches as "a step in the right direction", but argued that moves to assemble a full force of ground troops should have begun long ago. "You can't win a war if you aren't going to wage it. This situation needs to be remedied and remedied quickly, and the only way we are going to be able to do that is to bring the full might of the American and Nato military to bear," he said.

Mr McCain, who was held for five years in Vietnam jails, much of it in solitary confinement, said that he was unhappy with the gradual escalation of the conflict which he said was familiar to him from the Vietnam War. "You have to go in heavily and that means you will see civilian casualties. I don't like that, but it pales against what we are seeing in Kosovo now," he said.

Mr McCain's view echoes the philosophy of General Colin Powell, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War, who argues that when the US intervenes it must do so with massive force and said of the current Balkans conflict: "The challenge of just using air power is that you leave it in the hands of your adversary to decide when he's been punished enough."

Warren Christopher, George Bush's Secretary of State, said in a *Washington Post* article yesterday that strong mobile forces should be placed in Macedonia and Albania to protect those nations "and to make it plain that no option has been foreclosed."

Significantly, Texas Governor and Republican presidential favourite George W. Bush, who last week had been extremely vague about his views on Kosovo, told *Time* that he would back the use of ground troops if the military believed they were necessary. "America must be careful to commit our military. But when we do so, we must do so ferociously. Once in we should be in to win," he said.

The Clinton Administration has repeatedly insisted that Nato ground troops would only enter Kosovo if there is a "permissive" environment in which a peace agreement could be enforced. Mr Clinton reiterated this firmly last week but used carefully qualified language to say that he believed Nato had "a good possibility of achieving our mission with the means we have deployed . . . we have quite a good chance of achieving our objectives."

There was confusion last night over whether the three captured soldiers, Christopher Stone, Steven Gonzales and Andrew Ramirez, will be forced to stand trial. Milan Bozic, Minister without Portfolio in the Yugoslav Government and Deputy Mayor of Belgrade, said on the ABC programme *This Week*, that the three would not be put on trial and suggested Red Cross officials would be able to visit them. "Of course, they will not be tried and they will be back in their homes as soon as this stupidity stops," he said.

The Pentagon welcomed the news but said it had been unable to verify if it was true. "If it is true, then it is in accordance with the Geneva Convention But we don't have any way of confirming it," said a spokesman. And the Yugoslav Ambassador to the United Nations, Vladislav Jovanovic, said an investigation into their actions was still under way, and a trial by a military court was a possibility.

Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said that the United States would take "several thousand" refugees from Kosovo.



J SCOTT APPLEWHITE : AP

President Clinton with Secret Service agents and his dog Buddy yesterday. He is under pressure to back the use of ground troops to rescue the captured US soldiers

Nato's birthday party is spoilt

By Ian Brodie

THE shadow of war has fallen across Nato's 50th anniversary party and officials are scrambling to tone down the festivities.

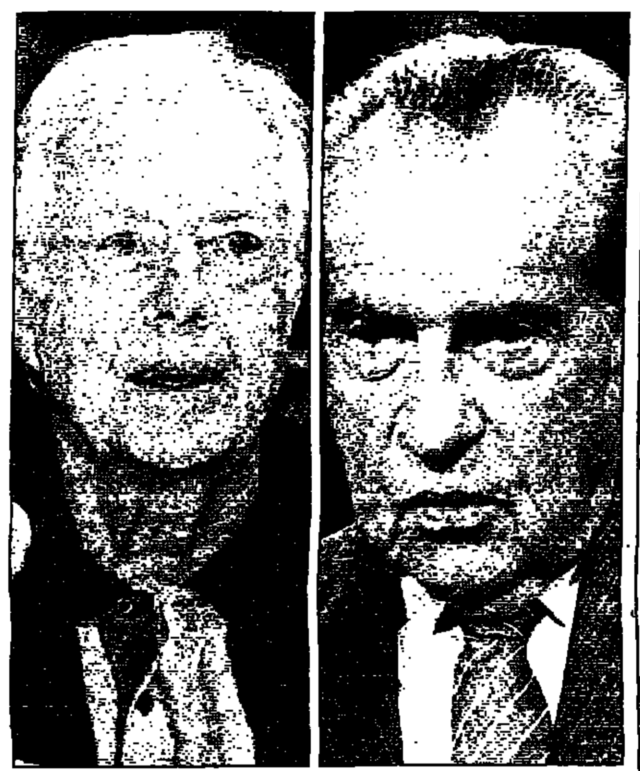
The three-day summit in Washington over the weekend of April 23-25 was shaping up to be a massive junket until the bombing began.

Now, officials are emphasising the importance of the work to be done at the gathering of 19 Nato Heads of Government, plus another 23 from neighbouring countries known as the Partnership for Peace — a total of 1,900 delegates.

White House aides are now choosing the word "commemoration", rather than "celebration", to describe the event.

As part of the more restrained atmosphere, a welcoming party thrown by the host committee and Washington's new mayor will probably be downgraded from a gala to a reception. Even the musical selections are being reconsidered, and guests will be urged to get involved in refugee relief efforts.

There will still be stylish lunches and dinners at the White House — but the mood will be more of sombre reflection than kicking up heels.



Former Presidents Carter, left, and Nixon: forced to make awkward decisions and compromises

Hostages force rethink in the White House

From Ian Brodie in Washington

CONFRONTED with three Americans held captive, President Clinton pledged that "the United States takes care of its own". But the seizure of the trio by Serb forces ratchets up the pressure on the White House where aides know how similar episodes have dragged other presidents into awkward decisions and compromises.

Stony-faced and haggard, Jimmy Carter appeared on television in 1980 to recount the desert failure of his military operation to rescue 52 Americans held hostage in the United States Embassy in Tehran.

Seven months later, Mr Carter lost to Ronald Reagan and only then were the hostages released. Mr Reagan in turn fell victim to the natural urge to help his countrymen snatched by terrorists from the streets of Beirut.

Lacking his usual aplomb, he went on television to insist: "The United States has not swapped boatloads of weapons for hostages." But arms had indeed been traded for freedom and the affair mushroomed into the Iran-Contra scandal.

Richard Nixon's push to end the Vietnam war was underscored by his urgent need to bring home downed American pilots held in a jail nicknamed the Hanoi Hilton. Their immediate release in exchange for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam lay at the heart of the 1973 agreement ending America's combat role.

One of those POWs, John McCain, held for five-and-a-half years after he was shot down and now a Republican senator, said that the arrest of three soldiers on the Kosovo border, sad though it was, should not influence Nato's prosecution of the conflict.

Several occupants of the Hanoi Hilton were forced under duress to make anti-American propaganda statements to the cameras, a tactic that backfired by generating fury in America.

The crew of the *USS Pueblo*, a reconnaissance ship captured by North Korea 30 years ago, were also displayed but managed to convey their views to viewers at home with certain obscene gestures unknown to their captors.

> ‘Poignant images of Americans in captivity tear at the nation's heartstrings’

There have been other poignant images of Americans in captivity to tear at the nation's heartstrings. A navy pilot, Lieutenant Jeffrey Zaun, his face swollen and wounded, was seen on videotape during the Gulf War.

Michael Durant, a chief warrant officer, appeared cut and bruised after his helicopter was shot down in Somalia six years ago.

With Americans in enemy hands and facing an uncertain fate, people at home feel an emotional bond and are drawn together, according to Clydie Morgan, keeper of records for American Ex-Prisoners of War.

In her view, American presidents tend to run into trouble when the US takes the lead as the world's policeman and its citizens are seized.

"Then we have to weigh the lives of the PoWs with the importance of what we're doing," she said.

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Nato forgets hard lessons of Vietnam



Michael Evans, Defence Editor, finds the inflexible bombing campaign flawed by its predictability

WITH hindsight, Nato would probably have carried out Operation Allied Force the other way round. Instead of initially bombing with kid gloves and aiming almost exclusively at air defence sites, the alliance would have gone for the biggest blow on day one.

A massive air raid on Belgrade, knocking out all the key ministries linked to the "ethnic cleansing" operations in Kosovo and striking at President Milosevic's powerbase might — just might — have taken the Yugoslav leader so much by surprise that he would have changed his tactics.

Instead, with the help of Nato's daily briefings informing him what action the alliance bombers would be taking, Mr Milosevic and his generals have been able to predict events each day and take precautions.

Mr Milosevic knew — as everyone else did — that cruise missiles were going to attack his Interior Ministry buildings in the centre of Belgrade some time between last Thursday and the weekend. That was because General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in charge of Operation Allied Force, had been authorised by 19 ambassadors to expand his targets to include such locations. No one imagines that the Interior Ministries were filled with hardworking state security police burning the midnight oil when the Tomahawks arrived.

While the Nato air campaign has followed a predictable doctrine and strategy — a surprisingly inflexible one despite Nato's post-Cold War policy of guaranteeing flexibility to meet the new unpredictable world — Mr Milosevic succeeded in surprising the alliance. No one was fully prepared for the merciless onslaught by Yugoslav forces against the ethnic Albanians once the bombing began.

Douglas Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, tried yesterday to describe the scale of the ethnic cleansing by comparing the flood of refugees to the populations of towns in Britain.

He said: "The number of refugees who left Kosovo in the 24 hours to 10am yesterday was estimated at 70,000 — equivalent to a town the size of Hastings. The total number estimated to have left Kosovo since March 24 (when the bombing started) is 370,000, equivalent to the population of Bristol." He concluded: "Taking into account displaced persons still within Kosovo, the total number of refugees and displaced persons is estimated at more than 650,000, which is more than twice the population of my home town, Newcastle."

Nato leaders will argue that decisions had to be made without the benefit of hindsight, and that the step-by-step approach to bombing was both practical — first hitting targets which most threatened allied pilots — and publicly acceptable.

However, in approving such a policy, Nato became predictable. Mr Milosevic would have known, from one chat with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, that Nato worried intensely about losing pilots and that its top priority would be to go for the integrated air defence system.

In response, by comparison with what he could have unleashed the Yugoslav leader kept his surface-to-air missile systems largely hidden away, knowing that, whenever any of his radars locked on to aircraft, Nato's superior technology would be able to pounce.

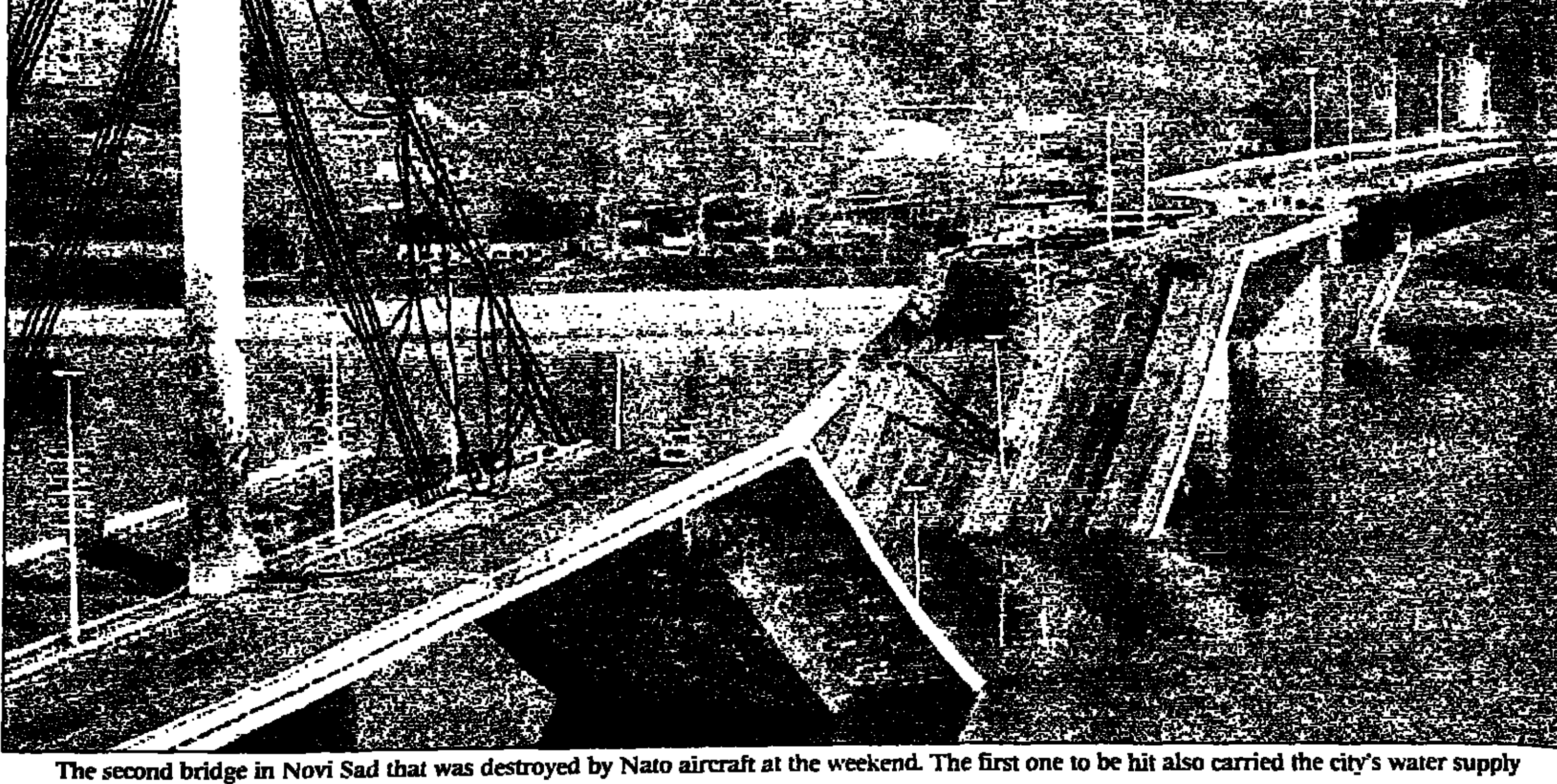
It would have been politically difficult for Nato governments — who were hoping that a few days of air raids would bring Mr Milosevic to his senses — to authorise overwhelming airstrikes on Belgrade on the first night. This was not, after all, a Saddam situation. In 1991 nearly 40 countries — blessed with a United Nations mandate — had the authority and public support to hit Saddam as hard as necessary to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

There is no such mandate for Kosovo, and the level of bombing up until now has reflected the political difficulties that have constrained the 19 Nato governments since March 24.

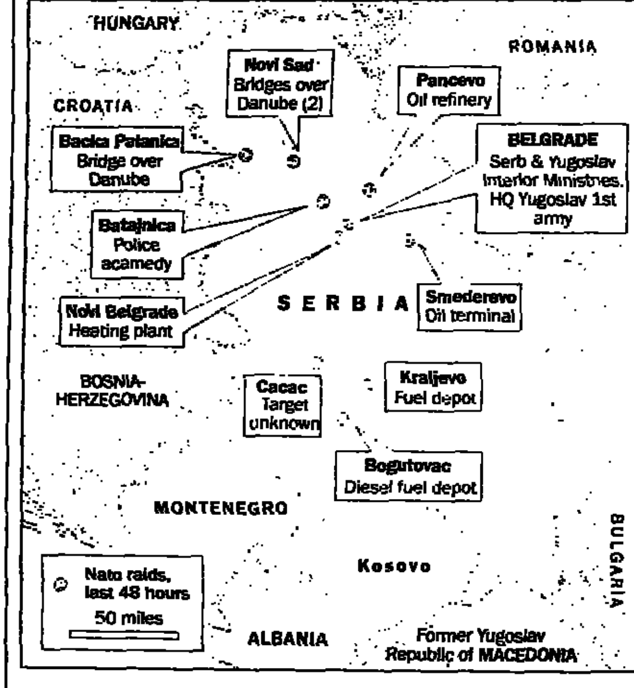
Now, however, as can be judged by the dramatically expanded level of targeting, Nato has decided to go for the big-bang concept, striking at anything that can be even remotely defined as having a link to Mr Milosevic's military machine.

But it is difficult to feel confident about the way Nato governments have proceeded thus far. The trouble is a crucial lesson from Vietnam has been forgotten. Nato has mounted an air campaign on the basis that superior firepower will win.

But, as the Americans learnt to their cost in Vietnam, a small unit of camouflaged Vietcong, armed with Kalashnikovs and rocket-propelled grenades, can prove to be an equal match, even for a superpower, when operating on their home ground.



The second bridge in Novi Sad that was destroyed by Nato aircraft at the weekend. The first one to be hit also carried the city's water supply



BALKANS SUMMARY

Serbs 'faked' film of Kosovo leader

Brussels: Serbian television film of Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate Kosovo Albanian leader, meeting President Milosevic and calling for an end to bombing were faked by Belgrade and he is under effective house arrest in Pristina, Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said (Charles Bremner writes). The pictures which Belgrade television claimed was a meeting last week had in fact been taken from video footage of the Kosovo leader talking to Mr Milosevic two years ago about an education initiative, he said. Mr Rugova's message was a call for the cessation of violence, not Nato bombing, but it had been falsified, Mr Shea added.

Spy ship enters Aegean

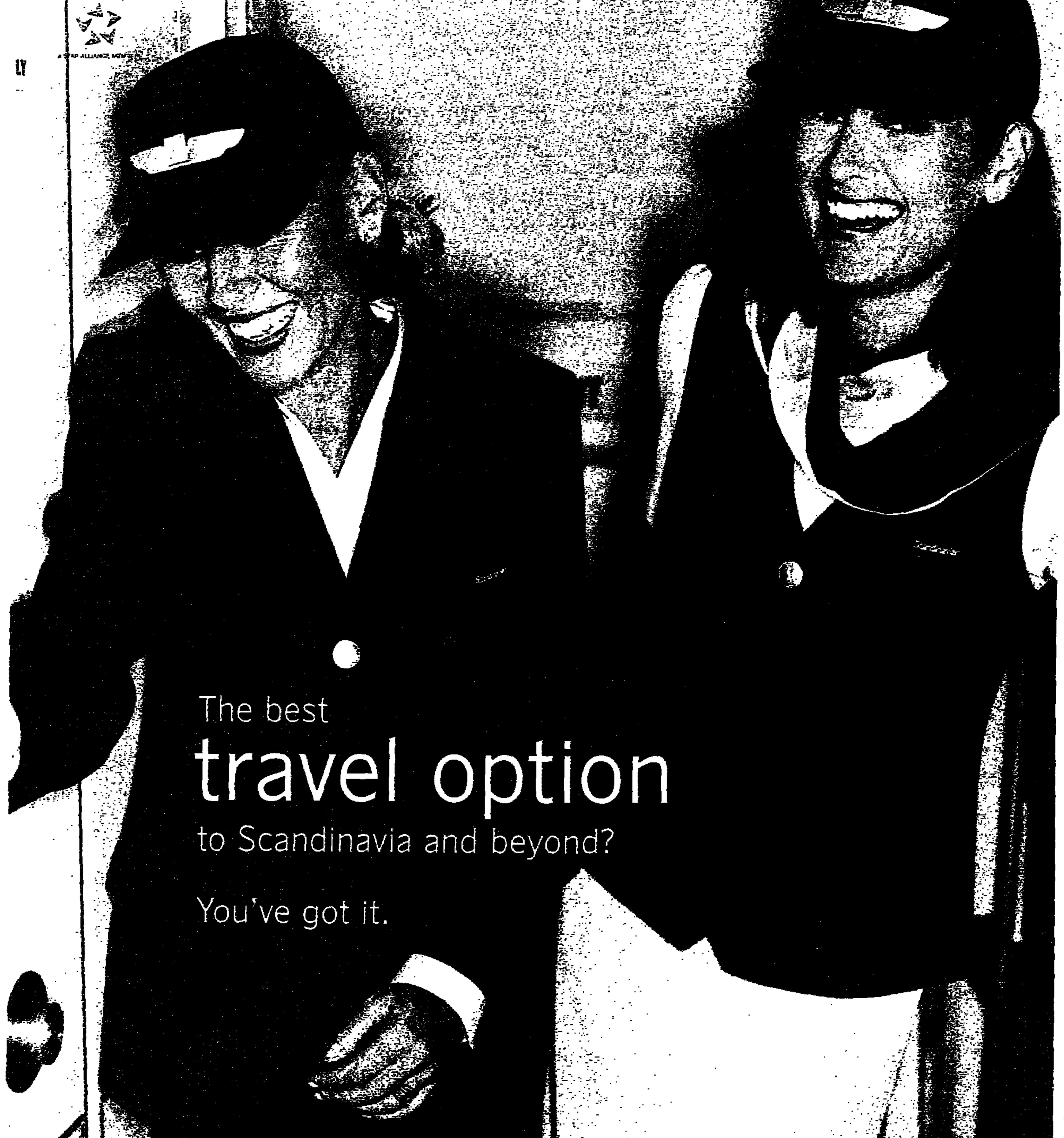
Athens: A Russian spy ship, on its way to monitor developments in Yugoslavia, entered the Aegean Sea en route for the Adriatic, Greek military officials reported. *Liman*, an unarmed reconnaissance vesssel, will act as Moscow's eyes and ears on Western warships supporting Nato's air war against Yugoslavia. Two Greek Navy vessels will "observe" the ship's passage, an official said. Greece has voiced opposition to the Nato bombings. *(AFP)*

Aid workers missing

Sydney: Two Australian aid workers were still missing in Yugoslavia, four days after they set out from Belgrade intending to help refugees fleeing Kosovo. The aid organisation CARE Australia said it had fresh evidence that Steven Pratt and Peter Wallace had been detained while trying to cross the Yugoslav border into Croatia on Wednesday. "We believe they are still being held somewhere in the border area," a spokesman said. *(Reuters)*

Fischer delays wedding

Bonn: The wedding of Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, to Nicola Leske was postponed because of the Kosovo conflict, *Bild am Sonntag* reported. Herr Fischer, 50, and Fräulein Leske, 29, were to be married next Sunday, but *Bild* quoted the minister's friends as saying that he was overworked and had been "tired for days and days". The paper said the wedding would instead take place on April 17. *(AFP)*



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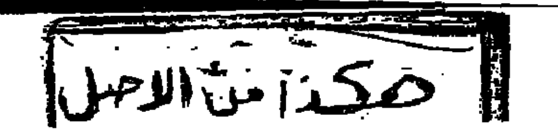
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Bombs fail to halt defiance in Belgrade



Tom Walker witnesses the destruction in Belgrade as anger grows against Nato's stepped-up attacks

AFTER their Interior Ministries were blown up on Saturday morning, Belgraders said that Nato would not have the nerve to strike again. Not on "their" Easter Sunday, they said. No God-fearing nation, not even the Western aggressors, could do that.

But at 4.30 yesterday morning the unthinkable happened. Tomahawk missiles ripped apart the main central heating plant for the sprawling suburb of New Belgrade, unleashing a rapid series of diesel fuel ignitions that reverberated with biblical proportions over the sleeping city.

It took until the spring sun was fully up for the flames and smoke to subside, and for the extent of the damage and casualties to sink in. Rows of apartment blocks along Juri Gagarin Street had their windows and even doors blown in, and it seemed a miracle that only three people died in the blast — as Yugoslav army sources declared later.

And so yesterday was spent clearing up the mess, and asking which bits of civilian infrastructure Nato would declare to have military uses next. As well as the heating plant, Nato also hit an oil refinery at Pancevo, outside Belgrade, and two more bridges in the northern Vojvodina province.

A police academy in Belgrade was partly destroyed, a white goods factory in the central town of Cacak was targeted again, and fuel depots were blown up near Krajlevo and Smederevo.

"When you live in such stress, you don't feel anything," said Olga, a 32-year-old musician whose family had the misfortune to live 200 yards away from the central heating plant. She was so confused yesterday morning that she could not remember whether she had felt the searing heat from the blast or not: all she recalled was that her piano saved her from most of the flying glass that once was a French window, and that somehow her two canaries, Giki and Chirokee, also survived. "For some reason you feel more sorry for your pets than anyone else," she said.

Despite the devastation, women emerging from the twelve-storey tower blocks had their hair done and make-up on. As immaculate as any Slavs on a Sunday morning, they showed a burning defiance to Nato tactics designed to break the nation's spirit.

> 'We keep our idiots in the madhouse: you keep yours in the White House'

"We keep our idiots in the madhouse: you keep yours in the White House," said one placard propped against the US Embassy.

In Belgrade's central Republic Square, the mood of Serbs was no better illustrated than in the daily "music against bombs" concert. Those held over the weekend were more elaborate than last week's — impressive in their sound quality and passion. The theme tune of the Yugoslav Army spot on television was performed by a full orchestra, and folk songs dating back to the Turkish occupation left many on the stage and in the audience in tears.

As the damage to central Belgrade increases, the welcome given to foreign journalists diminishes. Several reporters were arrested over the weekend in their scramble to be first to witness the pyrotechnics, and the army press service tried to strengthen its control over the media pack.

Satellite television channels like CNN and Sky have been vigorously criticised on state media and accused of ignoring the suffering in Belgrade — especially that of the young mothers and their babies in the maternity ward of the hospital just a block away from the wrecked Interior Ministry.

"Hatred for America, Britain and Albanians is what I feel because of all this, although I know that is irrational. What is a spectacle for you is pain for us," said one resident of the affluent suburb of Dedenje. He stood in his pyjamas watching diesel dumps around the central heating plant throw balls of fire into the dawn.

Shortly after the Interior Ministry was blown up on Saturday, hundreds of Belgraders formed a human chain over the nearby motorway bridge. They were there again on Saturday night, and Vuk Draskovic, the federal Deputy Prime Minister, said the human shield tactic was being used to thwart Nato all around the country.

At the Kragujevac car plant in central Serbia, workers sent Brussels an e-mail, giving the map co-ordinates of the factory where they were holding a round-the-clock candle-lit vigil.

If the bombs have failed to dent the civilian spirit, they appeared to make the military only more heroic. Dragoljub Ojdanic, the Chief of the General Staff, gave his troops a rousing address, talking of a Nato that planned to "mutilate" the living flesh of our country". He went on: "The aggressors have been launching and continue to promote hazy and constructed fabrications about preserving peace in the Balkans with a war; about using bombs, fire, new cemeteries and mutilations to prevent a human catastrophe. As far as we are concerned, no honest man in this country will ever accept to serve such criminal plans."

General Ojdanic said public backing for the Nato campaign in the West was slipping, and he told his troops the fight against Nato would continue until "the criminals are expelled from our skies and away from our borders". The alliance was driven by a "drunkenness based on power and new imperialist dreams". Helping to ram home his message, state television showed a series of military bunkers in Kosovo containing MiG fighter jets and other hardware apparently beyond Nato's reach.

Radio Television Serbia said that the latest attack on a bridge in Novi Sad had left many people missing. Search parties were trying to salvage cars from the Danube, it said. Military sources said they could think of few reasons to destroy the "Freedom Bridge," and none to blow apart the Backa Palanka crossing of the Danube linking Serbia and Croatia — about as far from Kosovo as possible in Serbia.

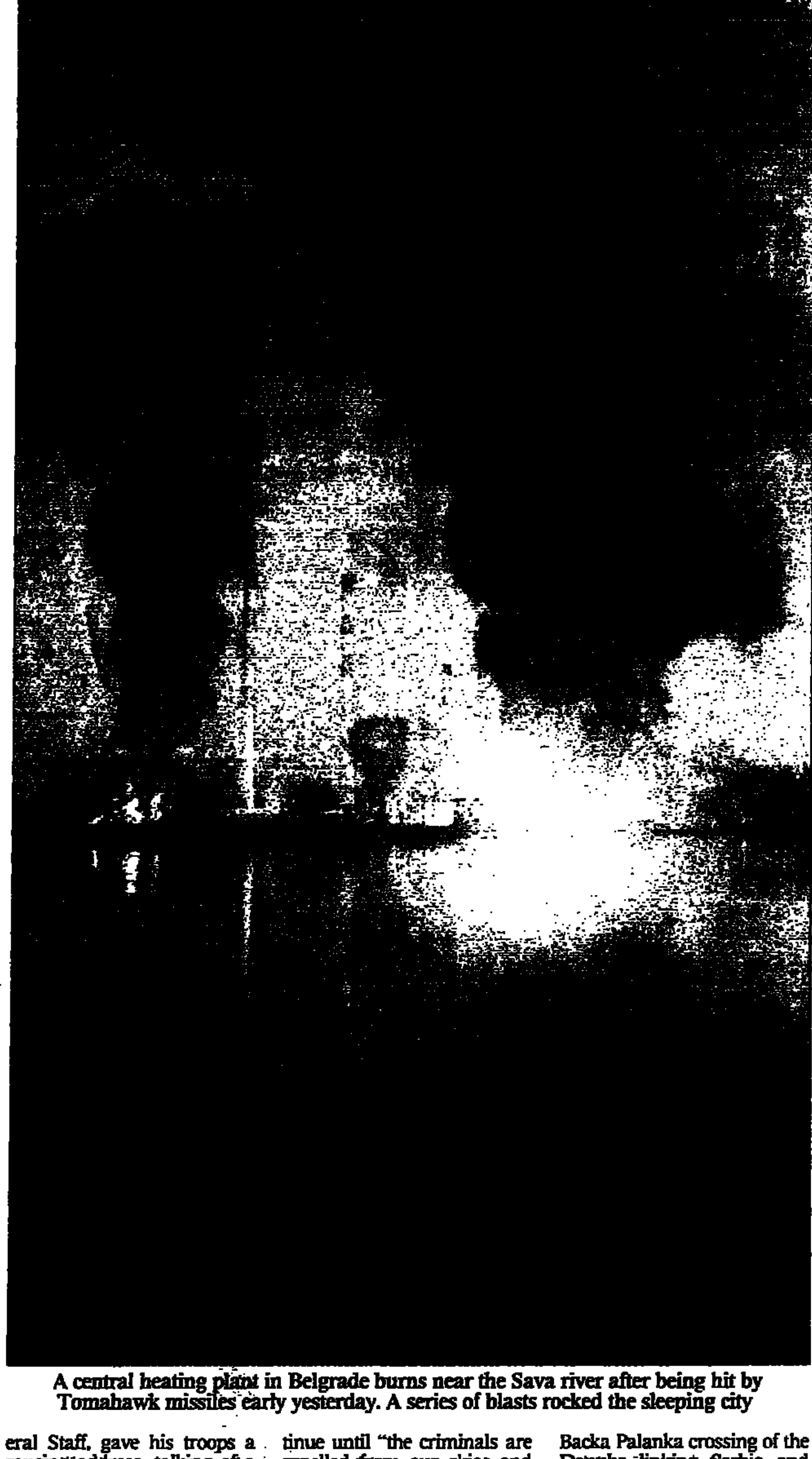
Diplomats speculated that Nato might be planning to somehow isolate northern Serbia, and the theory was given credence by the destruction of the railway line linking Belgrade and Montenegro. A short section of the line passes through Bosnia, where it was blown up on Saturday by units from the Nato-led stabilisation force near the town of Strbac.

A farmer, Vidoje Tomic, was killed in the blast. His death was thought likely to unite the Bosnian Serbs with their kin in the struggle against Nato.



Reporters visit a Belgrade building that was bombed yesterday. A security guard was killed

SRDJAN ILIC / AP



A central heating plant in Belgrade burns near the Sava river after being hit by Tomahawk missiles early yesterday. A series of blasts rocked the sleeping city



Demonstrators denounce Nato's airstrikes at a rally in Belgrade's Republic Square yesterday

British wife is ashamed over bombing 'lies'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

THE British wife of a Yugoslav national trapped beneath Nato's bombardment of Belgrade yesterday said that she felt so "torn up and ashamed" of her country's role in the airstrikes that she has only just re-emerged in public.

But Janice Mrdjenovic admitted that, since she has shown her face again in the Zvezdara suburb, her home for the past 13 years, she had been "very deeply touched" by the reactions of her neighbours. "You can't be in Belgrade and not start to feel some admiration for these people," she added, attaching an anti-Nato protest tag to the family dog, Bonnie.

She said the bombing campaign had cleared up any lingering identity crisis for her eldest son, Branco, 16. "He has absorbed this feeling from his friends over the last week or so about being a Serb. If he ever had difficulty over his identity, then over the last week he has solved it."

Her youngest child, Stevan, is nine, and the middle boy Marco is 13. But despite wanting to keep them all in peace and safety, the financial costs of evacuation were prohibitive. So for the past ten days she and her artist husband, Dusan, have arranged a temporary bomb shelter in the basement of their spacious detached house, and clung to the hope that Nato's smart technology is as accurate as is claimed.

"I didn't believe that we'd ever be in this position with a British Government. They say they're not bombing the Serb people," complained Janice, who was born in London. "Well, it's very difficult to say that to someone lying in hospital missing a leg at this moment: 'this idea that you are not bombing us, but we just got in the way'."

While her two eldest boys were coping well with the stress, she said she was worried about the psychological consequences for Stevan.

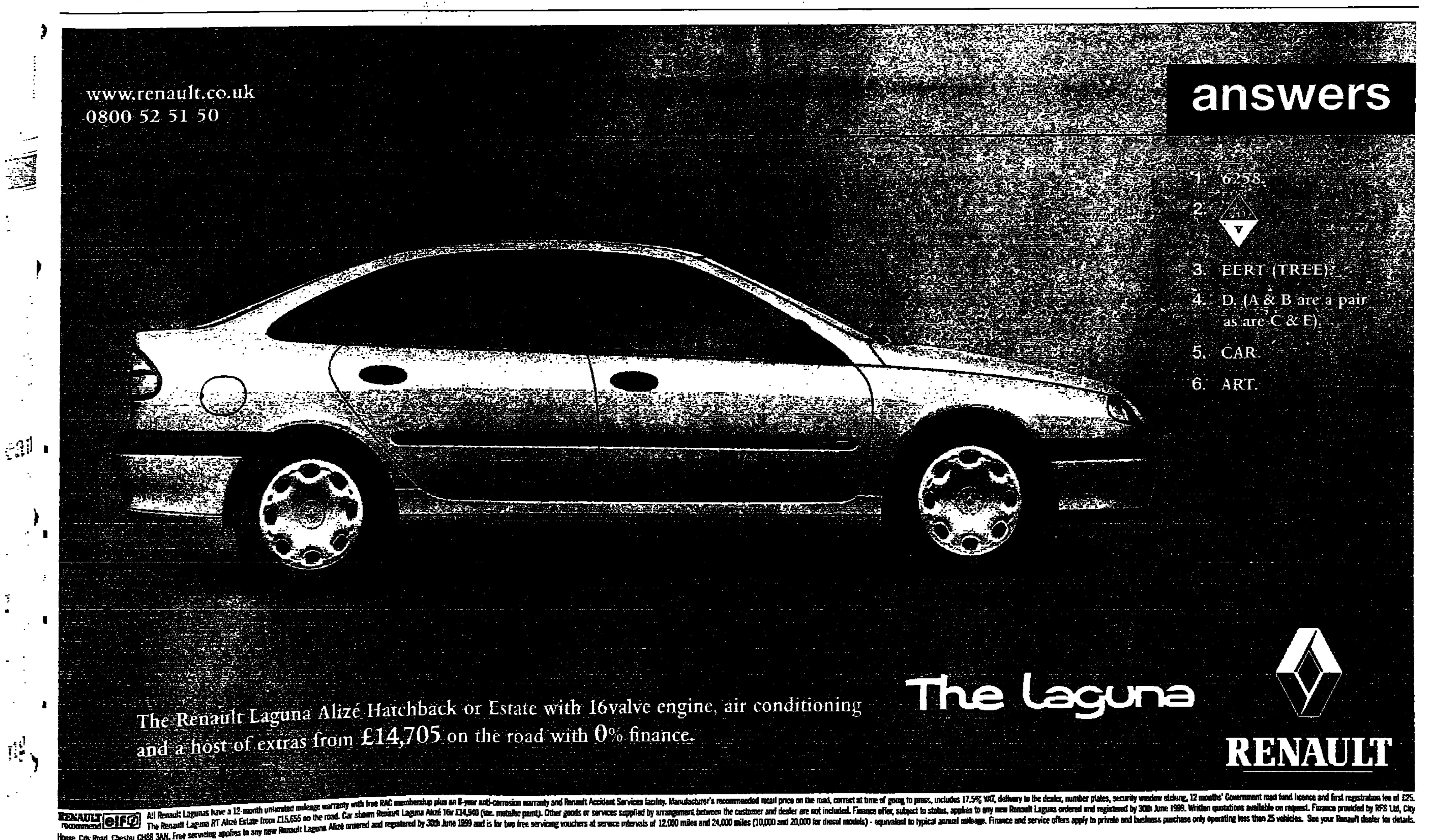
"I heard him mumbling in his sleep 'you're killing me' — he could have got it from his Bond game on his Nintendo or it could have come from the situation we're in. There's bound to be some effect."

Just before Branco came home, she confessed that she was thankful his Yugoslav military service is still at least one year away. "I thank God that he's 17 in May, that age, and not 18.". Smoking constantly, Janice showed a diary that she had been writing about Nato's nightly rain of terror. Dusan played with Bonnie and the boys in the garden, enjoying the respite of a warm afternoon and looking forward to the time when they have barbecues again. "They're obviously not afraid of God with their lies," he said of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his fellow backers of the strikes.

Janice's writing reflects upon the differences of being English and Serbian, and the pride felt by Serbs despite all that Nato throws at them. "I think maybe the English are more in love with their Englishness than their homeland, and the Serbs are more in love with their homeland than being at ease with themselves."

When she first ventured out to the shops again after spending the first four days of the bombing campaign locked up indoors, the man in the local cigarette and newspaper kiosk had assured her that "there are all sorts all over the world". Then in the supermarket the woman behind the counter had shouted: "Heh, neighbour, you look as young today as you did ten years ago."

Janice commented: "It showed everyone that I was a local, and put me at ease. I won't forget that."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Railtrack must take on cleaning duties

A legal loophole that meant no one was responsible for cleaning up litter on the railways has finally been plugged. New laws will make Railtrack responsible for keeping the tracks, stations, embankments and sidings clean. Previously, British Rail had been made responsible for the job, but it was not handed on to train companies when the railways were privatised by the last government.

Campaigners, such as the Tidy Britain Group, and the train companies, have complained of a steady build-up of rubbish on railways across the country, leading to fires triggering the shorting of electrical equipment and trains having to slow down at certain places.

Jails lag on tagging

Prisons are being urged to speed up the release of prisoners under the new electronic tagging scheme, launched two months ago, after fears that only 30 per cent of eligible prisoners are being freed early because prison chiefs are being over-cautious. So far, 3,045 inmates have been released — 4 per cent of whom have been recalled to jail either for re-offending or breaching their curfew. The Prison Service is hailing the results a success and says the numbers will rise steadily each week until the end of April, when they will probably flatten out.

Long hop for giant toads

Two giant toads with a surprising line in self-defence are doing fine after stowing away for 3,000 miles in a car's engine compartment. In Florida, Tommy and Tina, the 10 inch marine toads, had hopped aboard a Ford Mustang being shipped to a car collector in Sheffield. Their mating call gave them away: the collector heard "a sort of throaty grinding noise" coming from under the bonnet. He was well advised to call in the experts: when the toads feel threatened, they reply with a jet of urine. The pair are now at a wildlife centre.

On a wing and a prayer

A Boeing 737 had a near-miss when a hang glider flew into its path at 6,500ft. The crew of the passenger plane, which was about to begin its descent into Manchester airport, kept their nerve and did not need to change course. The glider, who has not been found, is believed to have drifted in on a thermal current before floating to safety. Keith Bill, spokesman for the British Airline Pilots' Association, said: "I have never come across anything like this." The Civil Aviation Authority is investigating the incident.

Book celebrity aged 10

At 10, Lizzie Broughton is a Times Free Books for Schools celebrity, after the paper published her letter complaining that her mother made her scour the Science Museum café for unwanted tokens. Since then, letters, tokens and e-mails have been flooding into her Twickenham home. The fanaticism of the Broughton family's search stems from the fact that they have three schools to collect for - Lizzie's, her sisters' and the school where her mother, Ann, teaches. The family would like to thank everyone who has sent Lizzie tokens and asks that any others be sent to her school, Trafalgar Junior School in Twickenham. **Token, page 24**

PETER MORRISON



A "colour party" of the IRA attending an Easter Rising rally yesterday in Crossmaglen, Northern Ireland, as Sinn Fein leaders sought to keep the peace process on track

RALLYING CRIES FOR REPUBLICAN UNITY

BELFAST
Mitchel McLaughlin (Sinn Fein party chairman)
"The agreement is clearly in crisis. Another deadline passed this week and the peace process remains in considerable doubt"

DUNDALK
Martin McGuinness (Sinn Fein chief negotiator)
"The Hillsborough declaration is a very ambiguous declaration. We are going to back in there on Tuesday week demanding that we find a way forward through this"

DUBLIN
Gerry Adams (Sinn Fein president)
"I have assured David Trimble that I will continue to do my best to find a way out of the impasse. But that is a shared responsibility and none of us has the right to remove the democratic mandate of any section of our people or to step outside the commitments endorsed in the referendums"

Keep the guns, say hardliners

Audrey Magee reports on Sinn Fein's struggle to reassure its supporters

PAUL McERLANE



McGuinness: called for trust in Sinn Fein

THE message was clear yesterday as hundreds gathered in Dundalk to remember the rebels of the 1916 Easter Rising: no decommissioning, no surrender.

"Giving up their weapons would be like saying the IRA was responsible for everything that happened in the past 30 years," said Catherine as she prepared for the annual parade to the republican plot in the town cemetery. "It would be like saying it was their fault. They aren't to blame and nobody should try to force them into handing over any weapons."

She was wearing a paper Easter lily pinned to the lapel of her black leather jacket in a show of solidarity with the men and women who fought against British forces in 1916. She believes that the IRA and republicans are still fighting for the same ideals and that the peace process is just the latest phase in the lengthy battle.

Sinn Fein leaders used Easter rallies across Ireland to seek to restore confidence and faith among in their party members yesterday, to placate grassroots fears of a sell-out by calling the latest demands for IRA decommissioning of weapons "dangerous and provocative" and not part of the Good Friday Agreement.

Dundalk is the heartland of republicanism in the Irish Republic. Only ten miles south of the border, it was to Dundalk that republicans fled for shelter from British security forces. For decades it was an IRA and Sinn Fein stronghold where thousands turned out for the annual Easter Sunday parade. Since the peace process, the numbers have dwindled and splits have formed. Dundalk is now better known as the heartland of the "Real" IRA, the dissident group that bombed Omagh last year, killing 29 people.

About 300 attended the parade yesterday but the Sinn Fein supporters in Dundalk acted as though they were still in control. They met in huddled groups to discuss last week's Hillsborough declaration. Jim, who like most people declined to give his surname, said that he was growing "increasingly sceptical" of the entire peace process. It had crossed his mind to transfer to one of the dissident groups but would stick around for a little longer to see how things worked out. But he ruled out decommissioning. "Orange marching and July 12 is only around the corner," he said. "There is no way the IRA will go through this summer without arms."

Addressing the crowd after wreath-laying, Martin McGuinness called on supporters to trust Sinn Fein to push the agreement through without "the surrender of the IRA". He said: "Every day since Good Friday of last year, the Unionist political leadership has done everything in its power to rewrite, redraft and renegotiate the Good Friday Agreement and it is not on. It is not on because the agreement has been endorsed by the majority of the people on this island. We in Sinn Fein find totally unreasonable and unacceptable the Unionist demands for surrender by the IRA." He warned the crowd not be confused or waylaid by others.

During the biggest Easter ceremony, at Milltown Cemetery in Belfast, the Sinn Fein chairman, Mitchel McLaughlin, told a crowd of more than 1,000: "The agreement is clearly in crisis. Another deadline passed this week and the peace process remains in considerable doubt."

At a rally in Dublin, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said: "One of the provocations has been the demand on the IRA to disarm. This is something which the IRA has made clear it feels under no obligation to do. The danger of all this to the quest for justice in the north has been pointed out many times to the British and Irish Governments."

The rallies were the first time that Sinn Fein addressed their supporters since the London and Dublin Governments finished 20 hours of talks on Thursday with a declaration calling for progress on disarmament. Sinn Fein sought to distance itself from the declaration yesterday, insisting it was a government document that they had not signed.

But despite the warnings of unease within republican ranks, Ulster Unionists still insisted that the Provisionals would begin to hand over weapons and explosives within weeks. David Trimble, First Minister and UUP leader, said that he believed republicans were "up" for accepting the joint declaration at Hillsborough, which would clear the path for its members to share power in Ulster's new ruling executive.

"I think we have cracked it now," he said. "There are still some things to be done but we are getting into the foothills now and the road is getting easier."

All sides now have a week to decide their response. Mr Trimble is under pressure from members to reject any suggested link between Army demilitarisation and terrorist decommissioning. Sinn Fein will this week begin a round of negotiations with members to gauge reactions to Hillsborough.

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New investigation of black student's death

Police to look at whether teenager was pushed off railway bridge, reports Stewart Tendler

THE investigation into the death of an 18-year-old black student has been relaunched after an internal police review criticised the initial inquiry.

Senior officers from Scotland Yard and the British Transport Police are awaiting the results of a second post-mortem examination on Daniel Blake, whose body was found on a railway line beneath a road bridge in North London three years ago. A new team is investigating whether Daniel was pushed from the bridge or jumped to escape pursuit.

The action was taken after pressure from Bernie Blake, Daniel's father, forced a review by a senior transport police detective. Police are satisfied that Daniel did not die as a result of a racist attack, but alleged errors again raise the issues of how police treat black victims and their families; and raise fears of a Stephen Lawrence-style controversy.

The case was initially handled by the Metropolitan Police, who handed it to the transport police. The review found that Daniel's parents were unaware that he was dead for nearly three days after he was found although they had reported him missing and checked with police several times.

If police had known that the body on the line was Daniel's, they might have promptly investigated reports that he had been involved in a fight at a house hours before he died. His clothing was incinerated without being forensically examined.

For months, the review concluded, the investigation drifted with little progress. Although Mr Blake pressed for action the police failed to find a number of suspects.

Daniel was found by a train driver on a freight line below Dudden Hill Lane in Harlesden on Saturday, March 23, 1996. The previous night a friend had dropped him at a house in nearby Kensal Green, where he was going to meet a former girlfriend. Daniel had no police record and there is no evidence of any drug involvement in his death.

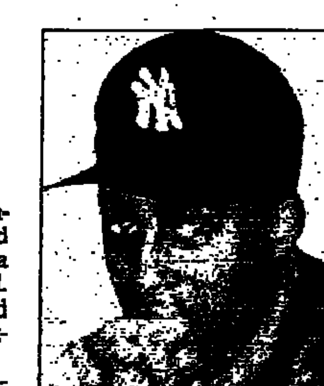
Local Metropolitan Police officers summoned a police surgeon. A murder expert from an area major incident team (Amit) was called and the senior duty transport police detective alerted. The Amit officer thought that Daniel's death was a suicide and discussed it with his superintendent. The case was passed to the transport police and their senior detective, having learnt of the Amit view, did not go to the scene.

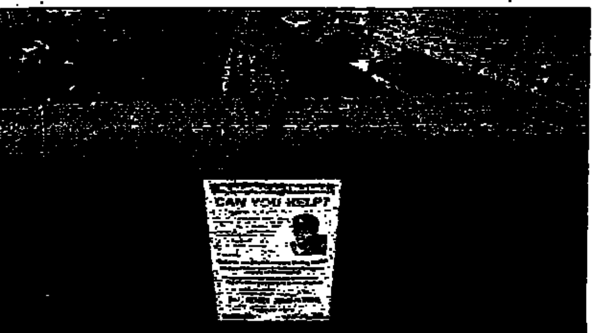
The Blake family had reported Daniel missing at Harlesden police station at 6.45pm on March 23. Later that day Mr Blake discovered his son had gone to the Kensal Green house and went there. He was told that Daniel had been in a row and been asked to leave. Mr Blake called police, who went to the house. No connection was made with the body on the line or the fact that a neighbour had reported a fight outside the house on the Friday night.

On the Monday evening a local officer from the Kilburn station told the Blakes about the body on the railway line. According to Mr Blake a transport police officer arrived with a picture of the body the next day and asked the family to identify him. Mr Blake could not bear to look at the picture. He says that he was told his son had committed suicide. A post-mortem examination concluded that Daniel had died from injuries suffered in a fall. The transport police spent four months investigating, but lack of progress prompted Mr Blake to write to senior officers asking for more action.

Police deny that there was racism in the way the case was handled, but Detective Superintendent Graham Satchwell, the transport police officer who carried out the review, said: "It was clear that not all that could have been done was done. Mr Blake could have expected greater sensitivity from the police service."

In January 1997 an inquest returned an open verdict. Eight black men and women were arrested but the Crown Prosecution Service advised that there was insufficient evidence to bring a case.


Daniel Blake: parents not told he was dead



The railway line on which Daniel's body was found

RICHARD CANNON


Girls at the Khalsa Tricentenary parade in Hounslow, West London, yesterday celebrating the Sikh nations' birth

Police ambush 25mph pensioner

A POLICE patrol set off in cold pursuit when it spotted an elderly woman driving erratically in the early hours. The police switched on their flashing light but the driver pressed on at a funereal pace.

In a low-speed chase lasting half an hour, the milometer touched 25 miles an hour on downhill stretches as Annaleise Wood, 70, weaved across the country road and clipped the occasional kerb in her 14-year-old Nissan Stanza. After failed attempts to persuade her to pull over, the police radioed for help and the target car was brought to a halt in the village of Hollym, Humberside, by the deployment of a police "stinger" device more often used to burst the tyres of teenage speeders in stolen cars.

At Hull magistrates' courts, Mrs Wood, of Anlaby Park, Hull, was fined £120 and disqualified for 18 months for failing to provide a breath specimen. A neighbour said: "She's a respectable lady. It seems totally out of character."

Interview with 'Lawrence Five' disgusts family

By Carol Midgley and Michael Harvey

THE decision to make a current affairs programme featuring lengthy interviews with the five men suspected of killing the black teenager Stephen Lawrence was defended by Granada Television yesterday.

Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, said they were disgusted and shocked that Granada should give a voice to the five men, Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris. They are considering asking the public to boycott the programme.

Executives insisted that the interviews, expected to be broadcast by ITV on Thursday, were "meticulous and exhaustive" and would bring "important new material" to light. They said that the programme, to be hosted by Trevor McDonald, was "not a platform for these men to propagate racist views".

The Metropolitan Police have started legal proceedings to gain access to all the tapes, which last several hours, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. However, they have agreed to wait until the material has been transmitted before taking further action.

None of the five has ever faced a full trial for Stephen's murder. The private prosecution begun by the Lawrence family in 1995, after the Crown Prosecution Service had decided not to proceed, ended when three of them were acquitted at the Old Bailey when evidence was ruled inadmissible; charges against the two others had been dropped.

A friend of Mr and Mrs Lawrence, Ros Howells, said that they had known about the programme for some time and felt that it was in very bad taste. Ms Howells said: "These five men have had ample opportunity to say what they want to say at the inquest and at the judicial inquiry. At both they were told they were free to speak and they avoided answering the questions."

Imran Khan, the Lawrences' solicitor, said: "This should have been aired in a courtroom, not on TV. We were led to believe the family's views would be taken into consideration. But it seems it was going to happen whether they liked it or not."

However, a spokesman for Granada said that Mr and Mrs Lawrence had been approached before the interviews took place in an attempt to discuss the programme with them. "The dialogue is continuing but we have not yet been invited to meet them," the spokesman said. He added that the men had been interviewed separately by Martin Bashir, the former *Panorama* reporter. The men had not been allowed to discuss their interviews with each other.

Dimbleby decries 'banality' of TV

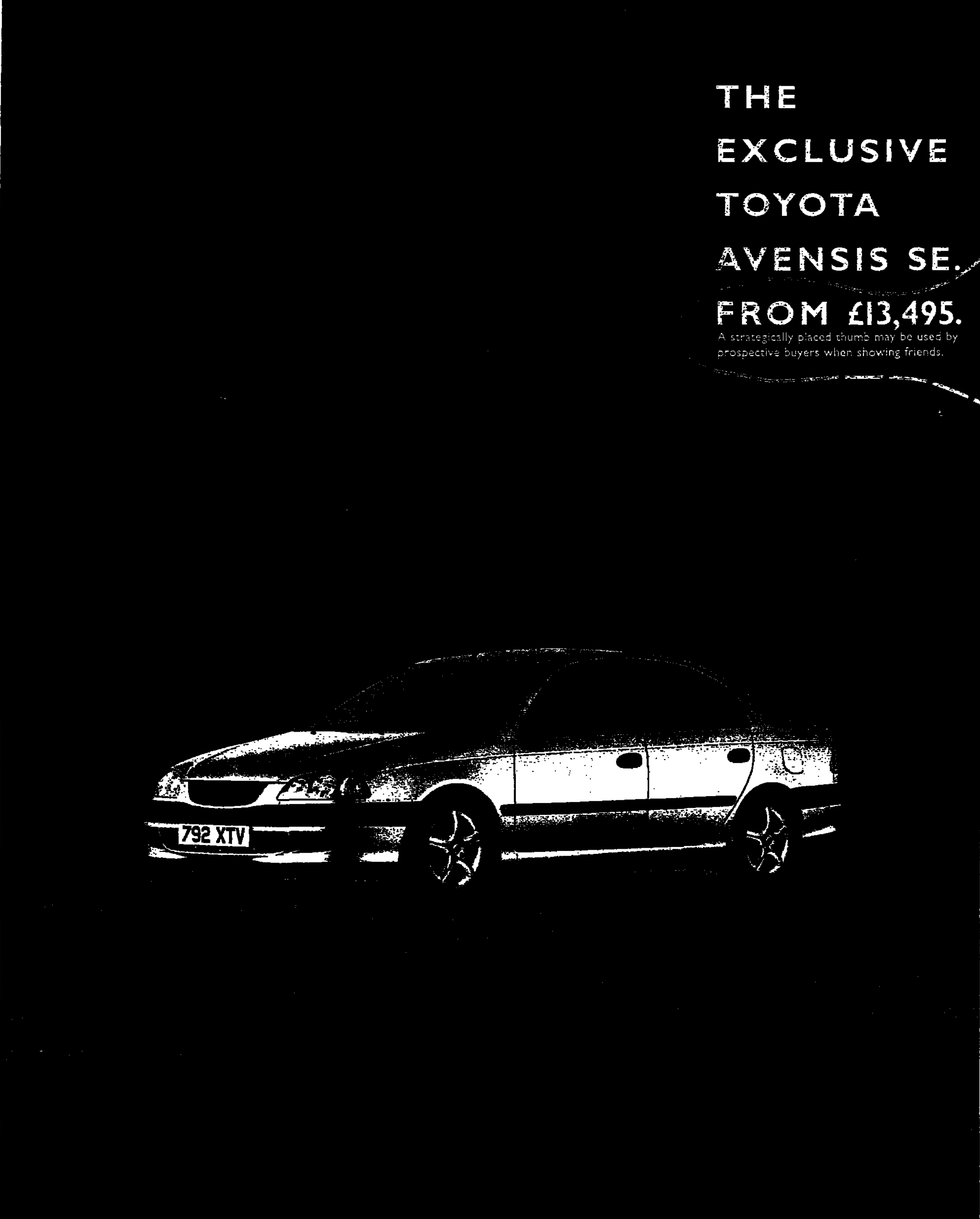
By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

DAVID DIMBLEBY, the BBC broadcaster, has denounced prime-time television as "ghastly, voyeuristic and banal", and says he now prefers to listen to the radio.

Mr Dimbleby, who presents *Question Time* and is one of the BBC's most respected television anchormen, is particularly critical of the BBC's live *National Lottery* show and its Comic Relief "telethons". He found it "mind-boggling" that anyone would want to watch them.

He similarly dismissed *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, the ITV quiz show that has achieved audiences of 19 million, as "unbelievable banality".

By contrast, he said, his own three-part BBC2 television series on the history of Rhodesia was one of the few examples left of good television.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fowler in apology for drug stunt

Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England footballer, last night apologised for gestures he made while celebrating a goal against Everton on Saturday, when he appeared to mimic drug-taking. Fowler, who is already in trouble after in February allegedly taunting the Chelsea player Graeme Le Saux over his sexuality, said that he now realised that his actions had caused "great offence" and regretted them.

Merseyside Police have started an investigation into the incident, in which the striker dropped to the white line to act as if snorting cocaine. The Football Association is considering disciplinary proceedings. **Sport, page 28**

CS replacement

Police may conduct trials of a synthetic chemical that could replace CS spray. Pelargonic acid vanillylamide (PAVA), does not use the CS spray's propellant, MIBK, which a study for the Home Office said may be carcinogenic.

Britons on trial

The trial of eight Britons accused of plotting terrorism is expected to resume in Yemen today, although defence lawyers are boycotting the proceedings in protest at not being allowed to talk to their clients privately in prison.

Tipping trap

Cameras hidden in empty soft-drink cans are being used to catch people dumping rubbish in the Oxfordshire countryside. Council and Environment Agency staff plan to use the films as evidence for prosecutions.

Number's up

The number 13 has been banned for new houses after developers feared they would not sell. A spokesman for Test Valley Council in Hampshire said: "Estate agents asked us to leave off 13. It could be unlucky for some."

Lockerbie trial officials set to receive suspects

Arab diplomats oversee the transfer of two Libyans to UN custody, reports Stephen Farrell

A GROUP of Arab diplomats yesterday headed to Libya for the expected handover of the two Lockerbie bomb suspects to the United Nations.

The group, led by Ahmed Ben Heli, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general, flew to the Tunisian island of Jerba, from where they were to be driven over the border to Tripoli. They cannot fly, as Libya is subject to United Nations sanctions banning flights until the two men arrive in Europe.

Witnesses from six Arab countries, including Egypt, Syria, Morocco and Tunisia, will oversee the delivery of the suspects, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 46, and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh, 42, to Hans Corell, the UN's chief legal counsel

He will then fly them to Holland, where they will be tried under Scottish law. Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Arab League's Secretary-General, expected the extradition hearing to begin "in the next few days, the next 24 or 48 hours" and praised Colonel Gaddafi for flexibility in agreeing to provide the pair for trial over their alleged involvement in the death of 270 people in December 1988 when a bomb exploded on board Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie.

He said: "By handing over the two suspects to the jurisdiction of a Scottish court, I think Libya has shown goodwill to put an end to this and lift the sanctions. We hope this will clear relations between the Arab world, particularly Libya, and the United States and the United Kingdom."

He also paid tribute to the diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and South Africa in bringing about the compromise.

As the delegation departed for Libya, two senior Scottish prosecutors arrived in Holland for the extradition proceedings. Norman McFadyen, a regional procurator fiscal, and Jim Brisbane, the depute principal Crown agent, flew into Schipol airport from Edinburgh and were taken to a secret location.

When the two Libyans arrive they will be handed over to the Dutch authorities by the UN. Unless they oppose extradition they will be quickly taken to Camp Zeist, a 100-acre former US Air Force base near Utrecht, which has been declared Scottish territory for the purposes of the trial.

There they will appear before Sheriff Graham Cox at a closed committal hearing on charges of conspiracy to murder, murder and contravention of the Aviation Security Act 1982.

Until the trial, not expected before the end of the year, the pair will be guarded on the camp by more than a hundred Scottish police and prison officers. The courtroom, which has yet to be finished, will be housed inside a former US Air Force primary school.

The cells, a hundred yards away, are underneath a secure former US hospital. Nearby the former Dutch officers' restaurant will be a canteen for the police, prison officers, legal, catering and other ancillary workers, translators and international observers.

The base's old sports hall will become an international press centre and its former barracks are being renovated as accommodation quarters. All building and other costs will be met by Britain at an estimated final cost of £50 million.


Norman McFadyen and Jim Brisbane, procurators fiscal, arriving in Holland yesterday

Sheriff ready to leave for 'Scotland'

By Gillian Harris

THE ***sheriff*** **principal of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway will be the first member of the Scottish judiciary to encounter Abdel Baset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh. Sheriff Graham Cox, 65, is expected to leave for The Netherlands today.**

Once the pair have been handed over, the two Scottish lawyers who will oversee proceedings against them — Norman McFadyen, the Procurator Fiscal for Edinburgh, and Jim Brisbane, the depute principal Crown agent — will appear in the courtroom built on the site for the closed committal hearing in front of Sheriff Cox.

A widely respected figure, Sheriff Cox was praised for his handling of last year's inquiry into the *E. coli* outbreak in Lanarkshire, which claimed 21 lives. He was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, educated at Hamilton Academy and Edinburgh University and called to the Bar in 1962.

Sheriff Cox's interests, listed in *Who's Who*, include golf, skiing and the restoration of decaying properties. He might well be impressed by the renovation of Camp Zeist, which was a derelict former US base before it was transformed for Scottish juridical use.

NUT backs strikes to see off pay linked to results

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THE leader of the National Union of Teachers predicted yesterday that the threat of industrial action in schools would force the Government to abandon plans for performance-related pay and instead award £1 billion in salary rises of up to £3,000 for every teacher.

Plans for a rolling programme of strikes and other forms of disruption will be completed tomorrow at the union's annual conference in Brighton. Delegates gave unanimous backing yesterday to a campaign, beginning with a one-day strike next term, opposing any link between pay and pupils' results.

Ministers have set aside £1 billion to reward staff in successful schools and fund increases of about £2,000 for teachers whose classroom performance justifies passing a new pay "threshold". Additional money will be available in bonuses and other reward schemes. But Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, said that the strength of opposition to the proposals would leave the Government no alternative but to use the money to give all teachers a substantial increase.

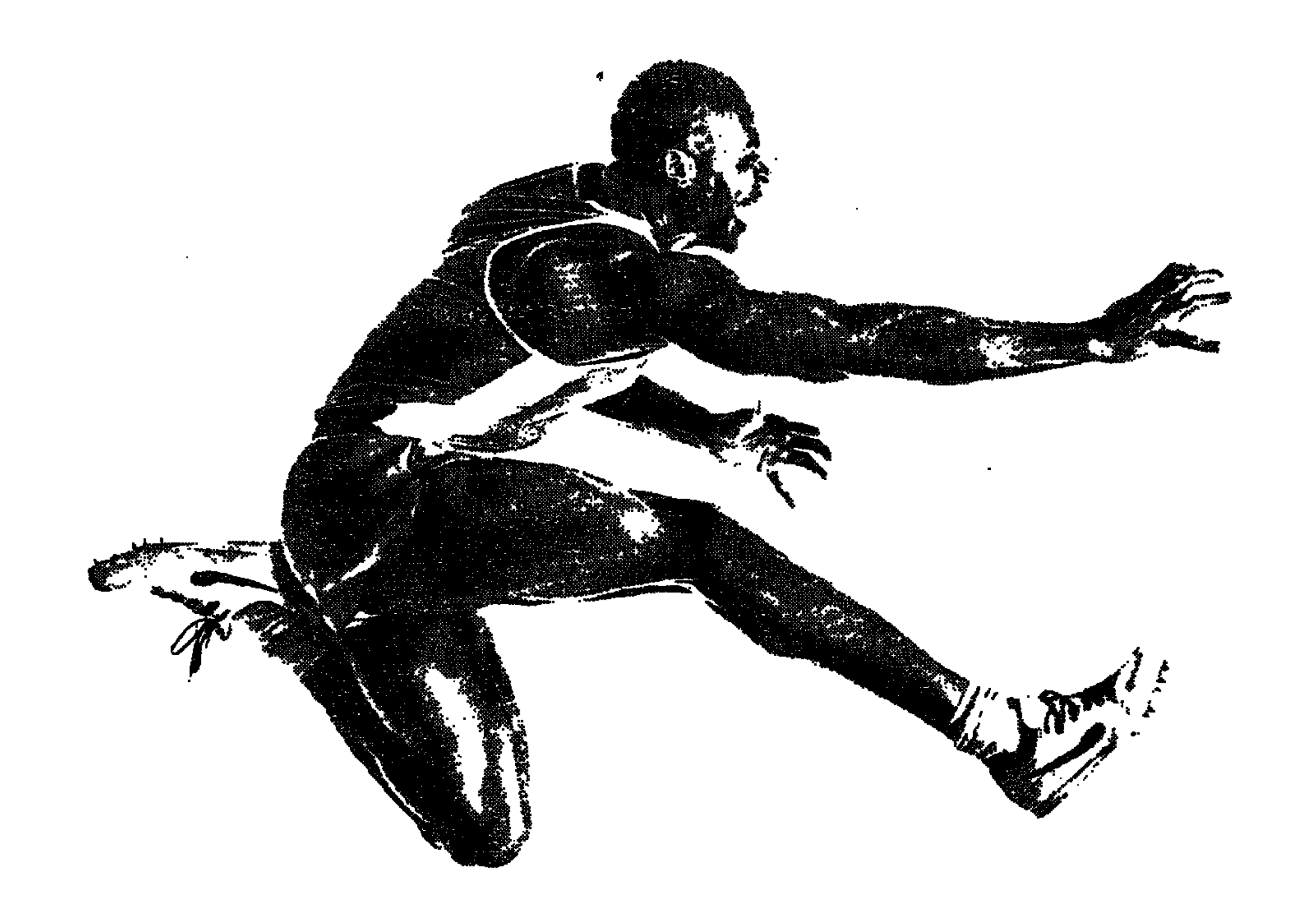
"Teachers will know that the money is there but the Government won't release it. That will hardly motivate them or help to recruit the extra teachers schools need. Of course, they [the Government] will be forced to release the £1 billion," said.

David Blunkett was jeered when he told delegates on Saturday that they were "daft" to be considering strikes when the Government was proposing to boost the pay of thousands of teachers. He said later that he would discuss details, but the principle of performance-related pay was not open to negotiation.

A succession of delegates yesterday insisted that the Government's scheme would destroy teamwork between teachers and encourage them to focus narrowly on the test results by which they would be judged. John Yandell, of Hackney, East London, said of Mr Blunkett's plans for higher grades for the best performers: "We all are superteachers. Why doesn't he pay us as superteachers?"

Jane Nellist, of the union's Coventry branch, said: "We have already seen play being squeezed out and it will disappear altogether if the Green Paper is implemented. Teachers will be forced to teach about commas today, instead of children being allowed to go and play in the sand tray. That would be criminal."

Mary Compton, an executive member from Radnor, in Wales, said she was insulted by the notion of financial incentives. "I have always cared about my teaching. I am outraged at the idea that I would care more if anyone gave me more money."

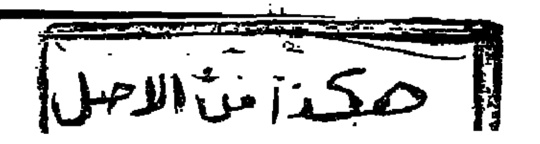




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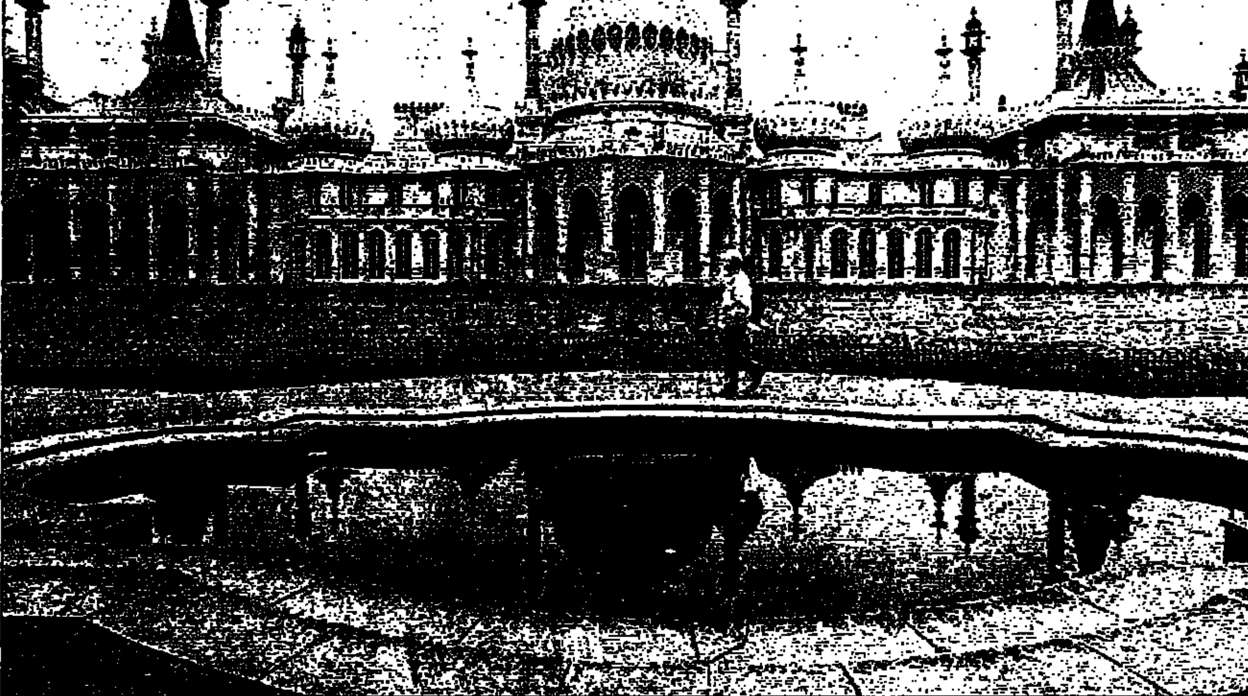
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Towns tussle for a city break

The starters are lining up to be the last city created this millennium. Richard Ford looks at the runners



Brighton, ambitious to be "the capital city of the South East", is missing a cathedral but does have the Royal Pavilion

AN UNDECLARED battle is under way between the council chambers of England and Wales for the prize of being the last city to be created in this millennium.

Old smokestack districts are competing against a popular seaside resort, and the world's former weaving capital is vying with a borough made rich by the postwar office boom.

Jack Straw will formally open the contest next month by seeking applications for city status, but in town halls across the country bids have already been prepared.

Five towns have emerged as frontrunners since it was announced last year that the Queen intended to mark the millennium and the fiftieth anniversary of her accession to the throne by grants of city status. Many more will join the queue for the honour of receiving a royal charter followed by a visit from the Queen herself.

The new city will be announced in the autumn. It is a status that offers little more than letters patent from the Queen and vast local pride in the council chamber. Blackburn and Darwen, Brighton and Hove, Croydon, Stockport and Wolverhampton are bursting to project themselves as the town worthy of emerging as the country's newest city.

Clearly forgetting London's position in the South East, Lord Bassam of Brighton, leader of the council in Brighton and Hove, which already calls itself the City by the Sea, boasted: "We're looking to become the capital city of the South East as part of the tremendous renaissance we have seen in the past ten years." To make sure that the Home Secretary gets the point, he added: "We are certainly bigger than many cathedral cities."

Despite the popular myth, there are no set criteria for achieving city status, according to the Home Office. It is not necessary to have a cathedral to be awarded the status. Cambridge, Hull and Sunderland are cities but have no cathedrals, while Blackburn has a cathedral but is not a city.

Brighton is missing a cathedral but its does have the Royal Pavilion, the home of the Prince Regent. Whether or not that would be an advantage is unclear. "Queen Victoria hated it but we are not sure of the Queen's opinion," a council spokesman said.

But Croydon is unwilling to let Brighton make all the running in the South East. Although it rose to fame as the site of the first London airport and grew rapidly after 1945, the council points to a history reaching to Roman times.

Valerie Shawcross, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said: "Croydon is one thousand years old. There was a Roman settlement here too. Croydon means 'Valley of the Crocuses', because the Romans marched into a beautiful valley full of yellow crocuses."

In the Midlands, Wolverhampton is hoping that winning city status will put it on an equal footing with its great up-start rival Birmingham. "Birmingham was a spot on the map in the Middle Ages when Wolverhampton was a centre for the wool trade," she said. The town suffers from one deficiency: it has few famous sons or daughters. "Mind you, we have Button Gwinnett, one of the signatories of the American Declaration of Independence, and, of course, the pop group Slade," she said.

Two towns in the North West are vying for city status, though if Blackburn is to get the honour, Jack Straw, its MP, will have to withdraw from involvement in the final decision. Stockport believes that it was runner-up in 1992 when Sunderland beat all the favourites to be awarded city status to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Wally Scott, Mayor of Sunderland, said: "It gave enormous civic pride to the city and bought us publicity we could not buy. It gave an enormous impetus to getting inward investment."

The most recent towns created cities were St David's and Armagh in 1994 in recognition of their ecclesiastical heritage. Derby became a city in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and Swansea in 1969 to mark the investiture of the Prince of Wales.

BLACKBURN



Ian McShane

Motto: By Skill and Labour
Population: 140,000
Famous offspring: Ian McShane, actor; Kathleen Ferrier, opera singer
Famous landmark: Blackburn Cathedral

BRIGHTON

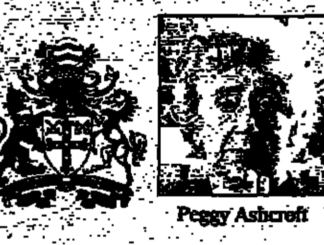


Samantha Janus

Motto: Between Downs and Sea We Flourish
Population: 250,000
Famous offspring: Samantha Janus, actress
Famous landmark: The Royal Pavilion

CROYDON





Peggy Ashcroft

Motto: Let Us Strive After Perfection
Population: 320,000
Famous offspring: Dame Peggy Ashcroft, actress
Famous landmark: Town Hall with a "nice clock tower"

STOCKPORT

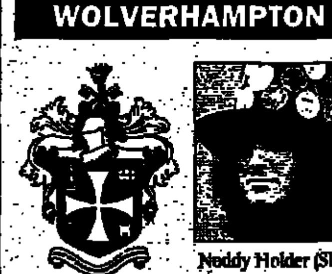




Fred Perry

Motto: With Courage and Faith
Population: 290,000
Famous offspring: Fred Perry, tennis player
Famous landmark: 27-arch railway viaduct built in 1840

WOLVERHAMPTON



Noddy Holder (Slade)

Motto: Out of Darkness Cometh Light
Population: 244,500
Famous sons: Slade pop group
Famous landmark: Chubb's lock works

WORLD IN BRIEF

Twenty injured in Nazareth clashes

Jerusalem: Easter in the Holy Land was marred by riots in Nazareth between Christians and Muslims that left 20 people injured, property damaged, and raised a question mark over the largest Israeli Arab town's role in the millennium celebrations (Christopher Walker writes).

The head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy Land, Michel Sabbah, used his Easter message in the Holy Sepulchre to appeal for calm to ease communal tensions. What he described as the "critical situation" was sparked by Islamic hardliners' attempts to build a mosque with a 252ft minaret that would overshadow the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Indonesian toll rises

Ambon, Indonesia: Christians and Muslims fought with spears and machetes in Indonesia's eastern islands as the death toll from several days of bloodshed reached 34. The South East Moluccas Regent, Husain Rahayaan, said hundreds of armed Muslims and Christians were fighting in villages close to Tual, the main Kai Islands town. Hundreds of police and soldiers were sent to the area. *(Reuters)*

Sons held over killing

Washington: Two 11-year-old brothers are being held in North Carolina charged with killing their father in a hail of gunfire and wounding their mother and sister, police said. The brothers allegedly shot their father, 46, in the head at the family home near Kittrell, about 40 miles north of Raleigh, North Carolina. Their 45-year-old mother and teenage sister were wounded and taken to hospital. *(AFP)*

Mahathir's foes unite

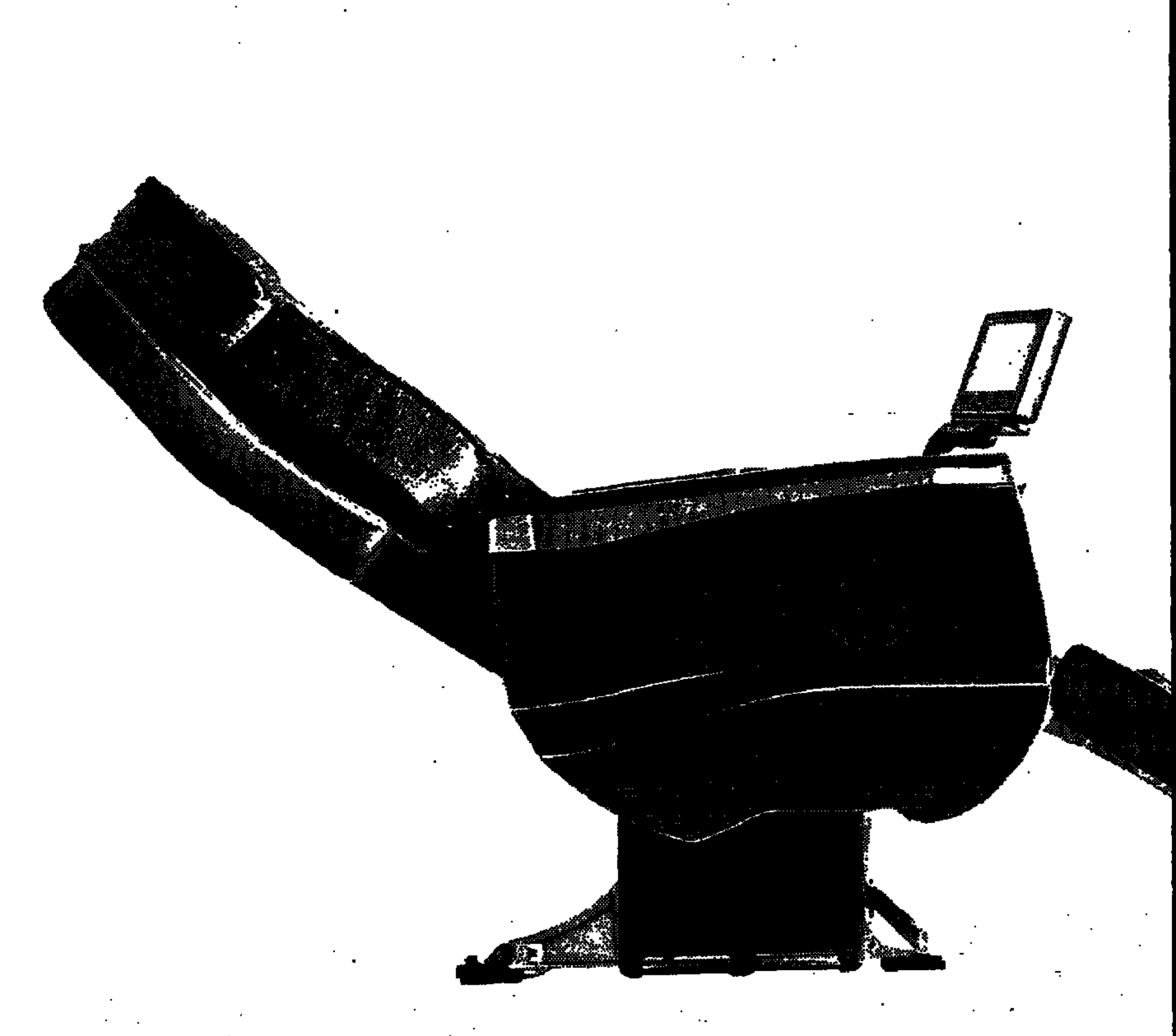
Malaysian opposition to the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was united with the formation of a new political party led by the wife of his jailed former deputy (David Watts writes). The launching of the new group — the National Justice Party — by Dr Wan Azizah Anwar, coincided with rumours about the health of Dr Mahathir, who has been admitted to hospital with a chest infection.

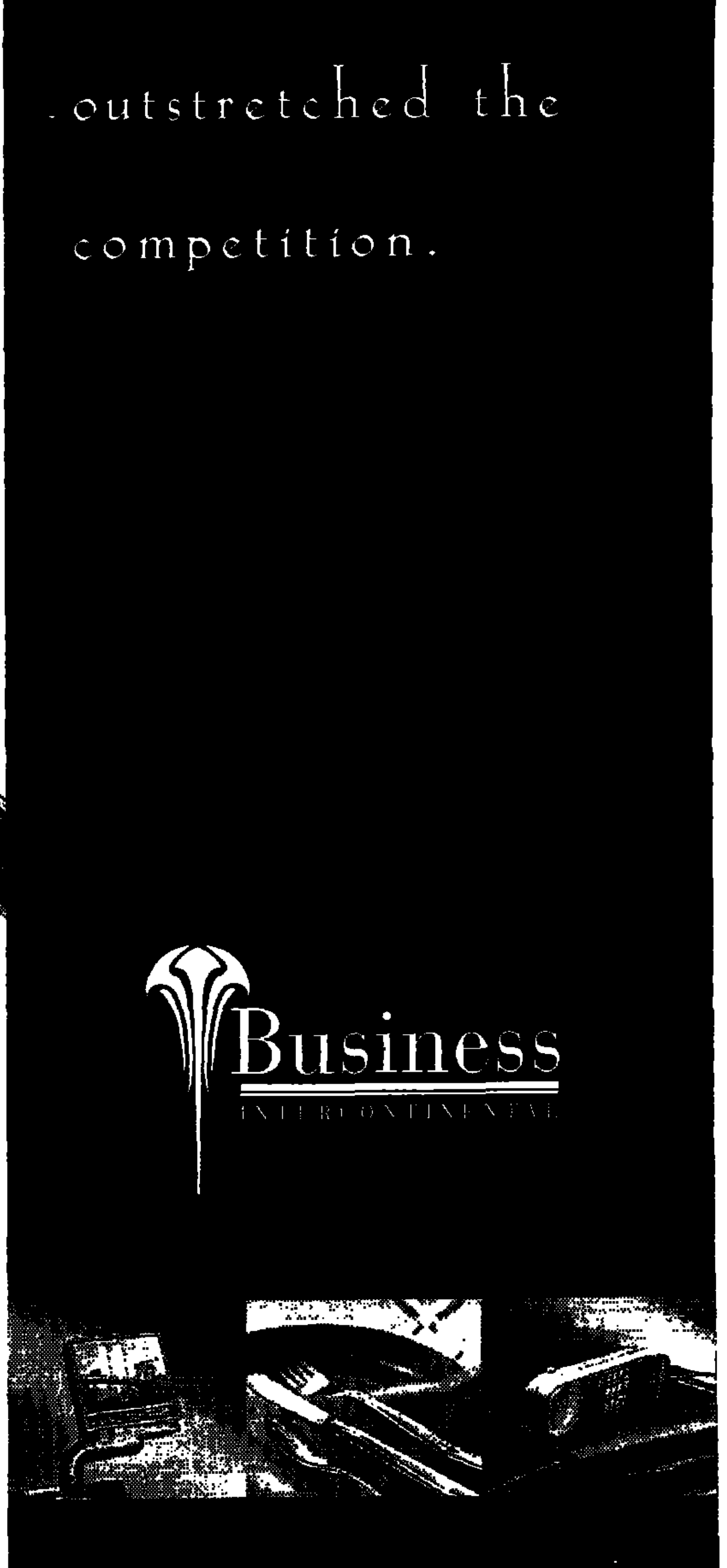
Town hit by tornado

Benton, Louisiana: A tornado tore through this northwestern Louisiana town, flattening homes and trapping people when walls collapsed. At least nine people died, state police said. About 100 people were injured, five critically. Authorities were still looking for missing people hours later, using police dogs and huge searchlights from the nearby Barksdale air force base. *(AP)*

New leader dies

Almaty: Zhumabek Ibraimov, the Kyrgystan Prime Minister, has died of stomach cancer in the capital, Bishkek, a government spokesman said. Boris Silayev, the First Deputy Prime Minister, is to take over temporarily. Mr Ibraimov, 56, had led the Government of the tiny ex-Soviet Central Asian republic for just three months since taking over from Kubanychbek Zumaliyev. *(Reuters)*





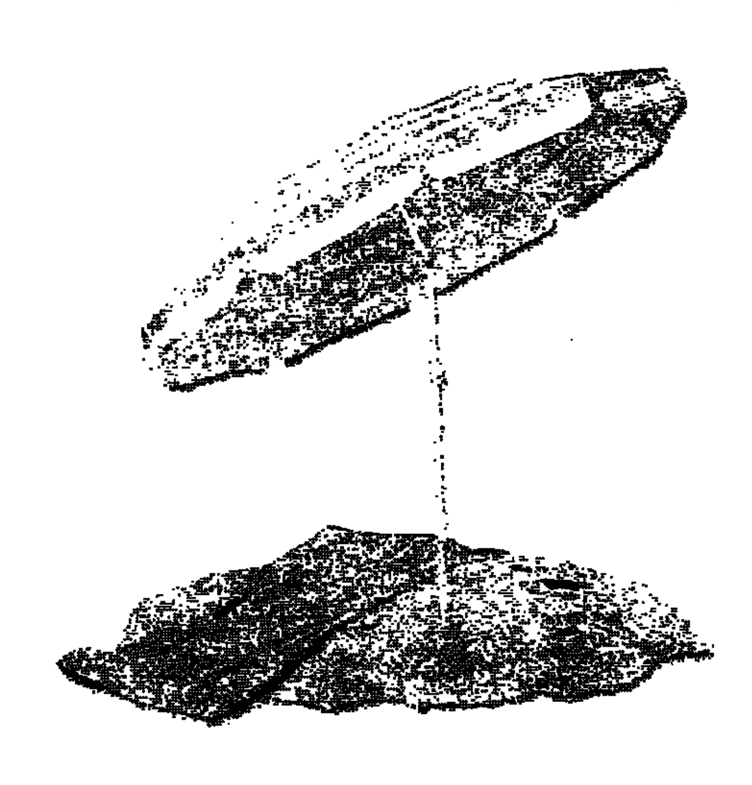
screen, make a call from your seat on your personal telephone or treat your palate to a Mediterranean Cuisine inspired choice of three menus, amongst many other possibilities. And when you've landed and had time to reflect, you'll have no doubt as to why Iberia is today one of the leading business airlines of the world.

Distance measured between rows.

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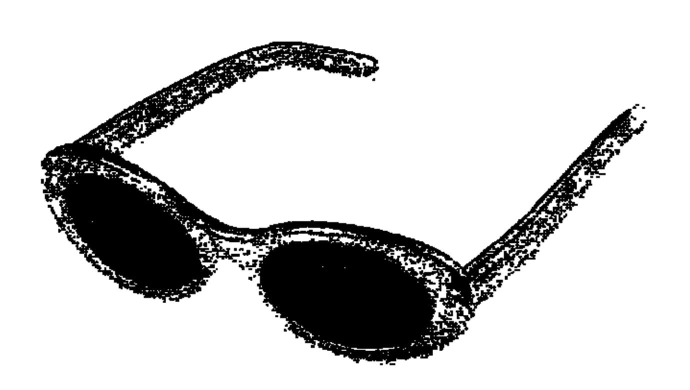
Only...

...a swimsuit, a pair of sun glasses, a large beach towel, and a camera will be required.
Before going to Turkey... Leave your doubts at home!







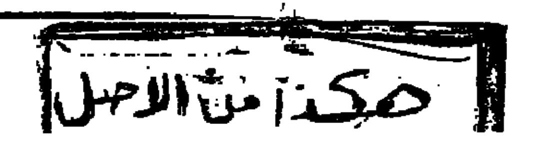


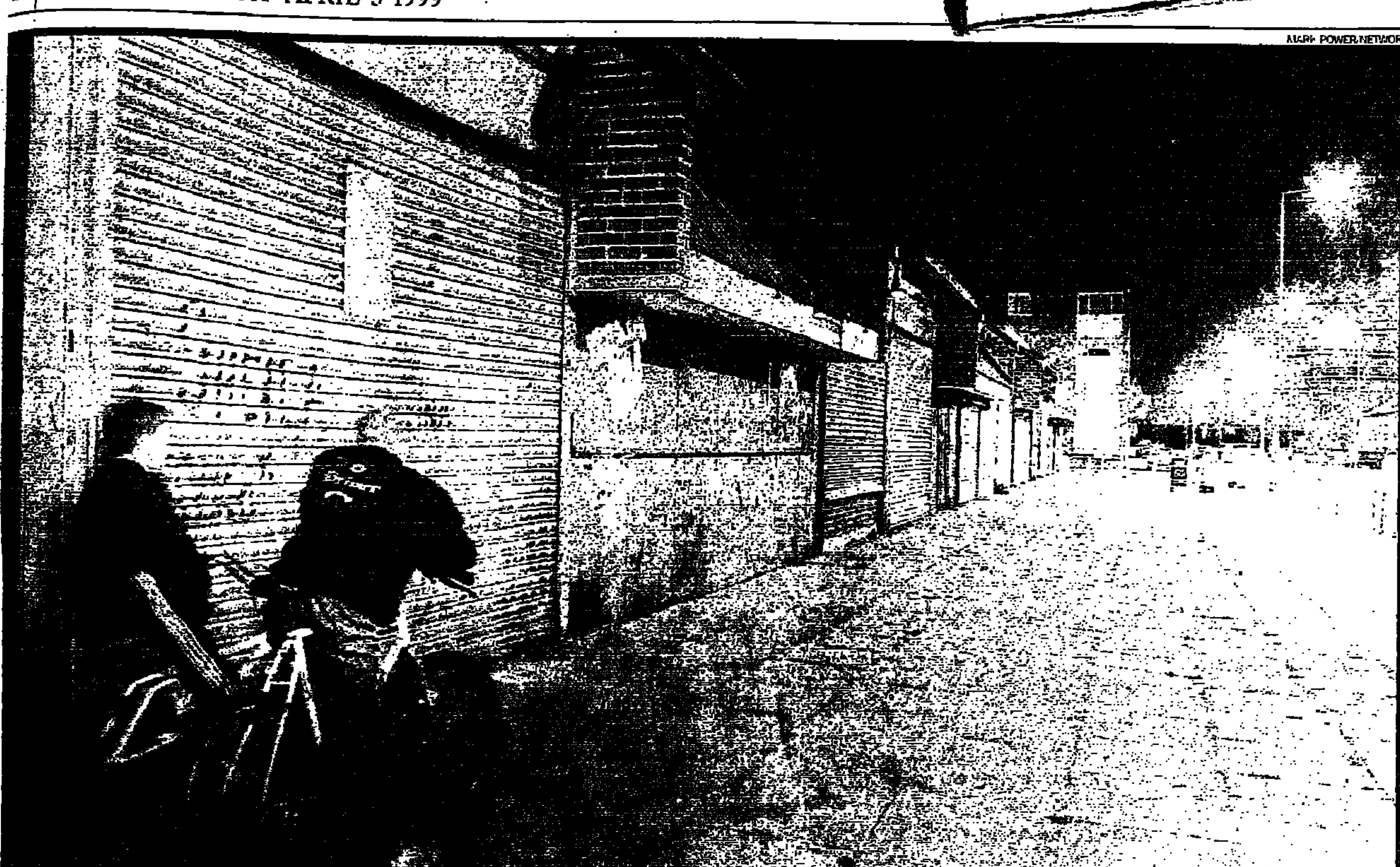
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Travelling home together: 13 to 14-year-olds are the most vulnerable to violence. "You don't expect to be stabbed, but you have to judge every situation as it arises," says one

New threats on the block

Parents usually fear for the safety of teenage girls. But the streets are more dangerous for boys, says **Trevor Grove**

Sixteen-year-old Ben has been mugged seven times. "Everyone I know's been mugged at least once," he says. His friend Charlie has been mugged four times. So has my 15-year-old son. Usually they are intimidated without being hit.

But a year ago a neighbourhood lad was beaten so badly that he ended up in hospital. The facial scars healed quickly, but it was a while before his parents could be sure that he had no internal injuries. Another boy we know just had his nose broken in an assault.

Sometimes, after he turned 13, my son would ring on a winter night to ask for a lift home from a friend's. "What's wrong with walking?" I'd bark. "You're only two streets away." He'd explain that there was a group of boys on the corner whom he didn't like the look of. I had to accept that he was being sensible, not lazy. I bought him a pager. Now, when he and his friends go to parties, they travel together or share minicabs.

Parents once worried more about their daughters being out on the streets; their sons could fend for themselves. In the 1950s and 1960s, middle-class parents mollycoddled their girls as though there were a rapist on every corner. So it was with our own three daughters. But as they progressed into their teens, it became clear that Western post-feminist girlhood had evolved its own survival strategy. One after the other, the three pretty girls we had nurtured so protectively turned into hulking urban commandos whose after-school uniform consisted of ripped jeans and combat boots. We pitied any boy who crossed their paths.

Eventually their younger brother became a teenager. Even though he played a lot of sport, beside them he looked slight. In his first week at secondary school he was held up on his way home by a local tearaway and forced to part with the few pence in his pocket. He was bravely reticent about that incident and others that followed. But he enjoyed making my flesh creep by recounting friends' experiences — some of them frightening. Talking to other parents, I became aware that in some ways, teenage boys are more vulnerable than their sisters.

> Reebok Classics and black Levi's can spell trouble

North London is not Los Angeles gangland. Still, my son and his friends say, coping with low-level thuggery among adolescent males is an unavoidable aspect of urban living. They are not especially outraged by it and shrug it off as coolly as they can. But when my son returned from a month in Vancouver, what had struck him most was that he could wander alone around the city without feeling nervous. The first thing he did on his return was to grab the hair-clippers — a cropped skull is an approved means of disguising middle-class namby-pambyness.

Talking in a glottal mumble, slouching and wearing clothes that look as though they came from a terrorist outfitter's are not just youthful urban chic, they are camouflage. Even on hot days, something must be worn to hide the school uniform. On cold days, a knitted hat reminiscent of those worn by the Special Boat Service is a popular accessory. Street gear can also be a warning signal: a gang of boys wearing Moschino trousers and jazzy trainers is best avoided. The wary also keep a sharp eye out for Reebok Classics and black Levi's. The subtleties are awesome. You must look tough but not loud. If you want to look loud, you must be tough.

> Even on hot days the school uniform must be hidden

It is easy to explain all this away as just youthful male display behaviour, a test of nerve and swagger instinctive in boys. But it must be seen against the worsening figures for violent crime: the incidence of muggings has doubled in a decade. Boys are not only responsible for most juvenile violence, but are also the most likely to be its victims.

No doubt the general demoralisation of young males has something to do with this. Being "hard" is one way of achieving a sense of status in a world where girls outshine them in the classroom, and where their job prospects are dim. The prevalence of violence on the screen, the growth of aggression on the sports field and the need for money to buy drugs or expensive footwear aggravate antisocial impulses. Ben was recently attacked on the Tube: three boys knocked him to the floor, searched his pockets and gave him a kicking, then ran off at the next station. Charlie was subjected to what he described as "a bit of an ordeal" when he was effectively kidnapped by two big lads, marched around for two hours while they decided what to do with him and ended up having his bike stolen.

At the back of these boys' minds lurks the fear that their assailants might have knives. "You don't expect to be stabbed but you have to judge each situation as it arises," says Ben. "The other day two crackheads attacked some boys with a screwdriver. Mostly they want your money or Walkman. Other times they're getting a thrill out of scaring you."

"It's hard to know when to make eye contact," says Charlie. "Sometimes you want to, to show you're not a fairy, sometimes it's seen as a challenge."

Our local beat policewoman is well aware of the problem, though she doesn't think it is new: "It goes in waves. Sometimes it arises from rivalry between schools. Often it's a case of an ex-pupil who got a kick out of being a bully carrying on intimidating the younger kids after he's left."

She agreed with the boys I had spoken to that the vulnerable age is 13 to 14. After that they get bigger and more experienced and are not so easy to pick on. But among victims, the unease persists. Being menaced by a gang of youths is not only frightening, says Charlie; it is also humiliating. "Your self-esteem shrinks. Maybe we are clever enough to judge when a situation is dangerous. But I think we're a bit pathetic not to put up more resistance."

Pathetic or not, parents can only be grateful when good sense prevails. Street wisdom is not something that can be passed from one generation to the next. It has to be learnt on the ground, according to prevailing codes. Money, class, race and testosterone are all part of the backdrop against which the young urban male must find his feet. You can't lock up your daughters now, nor can you lock up your sons.

When confronted, stay calm

THE first thing the experts tell you is that fear of violence is more prevalent than violence itself. The second is that the best way to deal with a hostile situation is to avoid it in the first place. "Use common sense and follow your gut instinct," says Detective Sergeant Peter Shrubsole, of the Crime Policy Unit at New Scotland Yard.

"If some lads are drinking on a corner and look like they might get out of control, walk away. Go where there are people around, a shop, say. If you can't do that, there's no hard-and-fast rule about what to do: go by instinct."

If events become threatening, adopt appropriate language and behaviour. "When confronted by someone who is looking for a reason to hit you, don't give it to them," says Dr Peter Marsh, a social psychologist and research director at the Social Issues Research Centre in Oxford. "Any language perceived as dominant, hostile or threatening will increase conflict. A calm voice and non-threatening language will do the opposite, though it is hard to keep an even pitch when scared."

DOS AND DON'TS

Body language is crucial. "Eye contact should be avoided," Dr Marsh asserts. "Obviously you must be aware if a person is about to punch you, but fixing the other person's gaze is a disaster.

"Orientation and posture are important, too. Face the person straight on, with arms relaxed and down at the sides. If you adopt an oblique posture, you have to look over your shoulder, and this is classic visual dominance behaviour. Tilt the head slightly forward and down, which could be interpreted as slightly wimpish but not cowering. Don't tilt your head back — you'll be looking down your nose at the aggressor." Maintaining distance, backing away a bit if necessary, is vital. And, of course, running away as far and as fast as possible is always an honourable option.

Crime prevention officers and psychologists say it is very rare for people to find themselves genuinely trapped in a violent situation. However, if you do feel you have to defend yourself physically, the priority is still to run away. "A sharp kick in the shins or a slap across the face with the palm of a hand should give you a chance to get away," says Rafael Nieto, of the Amateur Martial Arts Association in London. "Just fire your best shot and run. The best defence, however, is to be properly trained."

● *Contact your local sports centre or police station for details of self-defence classes. The Taekwondo Academy, 0117-955 1046; British Ju-Jitsu Association, 0114-266 6733.*



STARTING TOMORROW

One Step Beyond

The extraordinary story of Chris Moon, who, despite losing an arm and a leg in a Mozambique minefield, ran the London Marathon less than a year after leaving hospital.

leaving hospital.

Hungary '56, Kosovo '99

We welcomed refugees 40 years ago — would we now, asks **Grace Bradberry**

Their faces grey, their eyes hollow with exhaustion, they continue to trudge across the Kosovan borders. We watch them on television each night, the children shivering from the cold, the parents weeping.

We are aware that, globally speaking, they are "on our doorstep", but there is a distinct possibility that these displaced souls could soon actually be our neighbours. As the number of Kosovan Albanian refugees reaches three quarters of a million, and as Macedonia and Albania ask for help in dealing with the exodus, Nato is now being forced to discuss the logistics of dispersing the refugees across Western Europe. Downing Street yesterday said it was ready to accept some on a temporary basis.

How would Britain cope with an influx of refugees whose situation demands unreserved compassion? What sort of life could we offer them and how would they adapt? The last European refugee crisis on anything like this scale occurred more than 40 years ago, in 1956, when the Hungarian uprising led to an exodus of some 200,000 political asylum-seekers. Soviet troops invaded Hungary on November 4. By the end of that month, 100,000 refugees had crossed the Austrian border. In some cases, the "new refugees" joined camps already inhabited by the "old refugees" still displaced after the Second World War. Others were given swift passage to Western countries, including Britain.

Louis Permayer, 67, the owner and manager of Louis Patisserie in Hampstead, North London, was plucked from an Austrian camp. "A British man came saying he wanted 300 strong Hungarians to become miners in Alfreton, Derbyshire. We went to a camp, where we were taught English, and were trained for the mines. But the English people went on strike because they wanted their own sons to go into the mines.

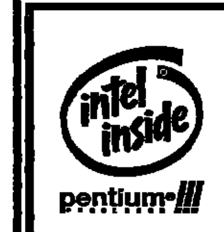
"I had trained as a chef in Hungary, so I went to work for Egon Ronay [who then had a restaurant]." After a couple of years he took a job in the patisserie that he now runs, having bought out the owner in 1963. The Austrian and English camps were "nice", he says. "In Austria people came on Sundays to take us out to lunch. We were given soap and shaving products. England was also good; we were paid £8 a week."

High employment undoubtedly made it easier for refugees to find their own way in this country. Another Hungarian refugee, who prefers to remain anonymous, recalls how he left his home in Zala, near the Austrian border, on November 18, 1956, and was in a job in Suffolk by November 25. His escape from Hungary involved swimming a fast river, his clothes tied in a bundle on his head. But once he reached Austria the organisation was excellent. He stayed initially in a schoolhouse, in a small town that had taken in 1,200 refugees, and was then taken by train to southern Austria. "I was told that if I wanted to go to England, I could go immediately, but for anywhere else I would have to wait in a camp. So I went to England."

He went by train to London, staying in a Hungarian club. "I was well looked after. I spoke no English, and only saw Hungarians. After three days an English employer arrived looking for ten steelworkers. My nine friends and I, all from the same part of Hungary, volunteered. Our accommodation was arranged by our employers, but by the end of the month we were paying our own way from our wages."

He was not taught any English, however, and on several occasions found his way home by showing passers-by a piece of paper with his address and hoping they would direct him to the right bus stop.

More help may well be needed from the British public this time round. There are few, if any, manual jobs awaiting the Kosovan Albanians that will allow them to pay their way. And it is unlikely that pointing the way to a bus stop will be enough for this new group of displaced people.



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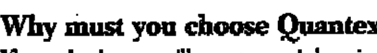
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Clockwise from above: double-layered sequin dress, £110, by Karen Millen nationwide (01622-664 032); black cowboy hat, £20, by Top Shop; brown nubuck cowboy/biker boots, £125, by Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street W1 (0171-629 6903)

Bias-cut devoré dress, £180, J by Jasper Conran at selected Debenhams stores nationwide (0171-408 4444); lilac and black lace-trim cardigan, £80, by Press & Bastyan, 22 South Molton Street W1 and nationwide (01622-763 211); brown boots by Russell & Bromley, as before

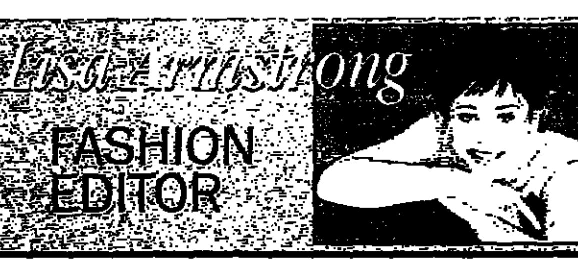
Floral painted linen top, £29.99, by Morgan stores nationwide (0171-383 288)

White linen and velvet panel skirt, £75, cream wool beaded tank top, £69, both by Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place W1 (0171-487 4484); white leather ballerina pumps, £145, by Ernesto Esposito at Russell & Bromley, as before





The high street's



Keep a careful eye on the high street and you will find plenty of inexpensive, irresistible items that encapsulate this summer's trends

There are, let's be frank, certain things that the high street can't do very well: a really well-tailored jacket, fine cashmere, beautiful velvets, a Hermès Kelly bag, one-offs . . . but the list of purchases that shouldn't be attempted grows smaller every year.

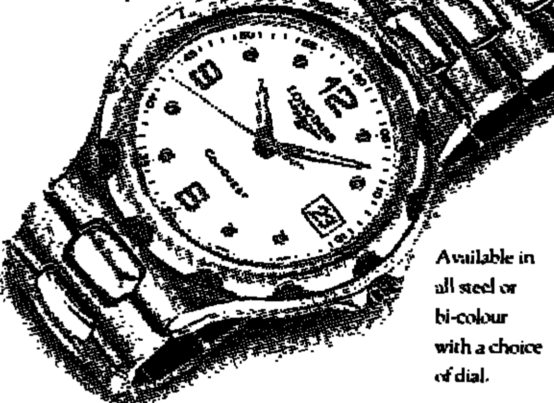
There was a time when a woman with a keen eye for a well-made, dainty shoe would happily work overtime and live on baked beans for a year to save enough money not to have to buy her footwear from a chain store. Then Linda Bennett's 11 branches of LK Bennett's began springing up three years ago, complete with up-to-the-minute kitten-heel slingbacks, jewel-coloured silk mules and high, but not trollopy, strappy sandals that had even the most searching fashion eye fooled — and at last it became possible to buy a classy-looking pair of evening shoes for less than £100.

That £100 for three vermicelli-thin straps of silk or suede and a spindly heel now commonly changes hands on the high street is a sign of how far its horizons have broadened, its prices risen and its quality and design improved. The "pile it high, sell it cheap" philosophy that made ye olde Seventies and Eighties British high street shops such a dispiriting, and in some cases hazardous, destination (remember those urban myths about catching lice in some of the grottier Afghan coat stockists?) has largely disappeared. The fact is that the gap between the best of the high street and the cheaper designer diffusion ranges has never been narrower, especially now that so many designers do collections for chainstores. Morgan, Zara and Jigsaw in particular try very hard to give an impression of airy, unhurried spaciousness by limiting the number of items on the shopfloor. So even though there might be another 13,000 of those fuchsia boob-tubes lurking in the stockroom, for the brief hours of pleasure you get between standing at the cash register while your precious new investment is wrapped in tissue paper (another high street revolution: decent packaging, along with helpful-ish assistants) and wearing it out that night, when you meet all its idenical siblings, you can enjoy the frisson that comes from having managed to buy a frippery and yet spent wisely. You would not feel thus if you had paid £700 for it in Calvin Klein.

In any case, no one has any illusions when they shop on the high street. In the same way that we've come to accept that the reason some designers can afford to place just two or three pieces on their rails is because each one costs enough to pay the store rent and half the sales staff, we also realise that that grey Narciso Rodriguez knock-off for £39.99 is neither exclusive nor built to last.

That said, in the smartest corner of the high street, shops such as Whistles manufacture short, limited runs of certain designs, usually around 100, although in some cases — a piece that was produced primarily for the press, for instance — they may make up as few as five. Nor is there anything cheap or nasty about Press & Bastyan or Russell & Bromley. Yet they are all accessible. But to confine yourself

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ANGIE KIRK
Marketing and PR director at Gina Shoes

by Deborah Brett

What can't you leave the house without?
My small, black leather Prada diary which fits into every little bag. It has my life in it.

What do you wear if you're feeling down?
Colour therapy. Forget moping around in baggy black pants. I dress up in lilac and turquoise, paint my nails pink and wear orange shoes.

Whose style do you most admire?
Ingrid Bergman. She represents timeless, classic dressing and a graceful style that doesn't date.

Which city is the most stylish?
Paris. I love the atmosphere, the architecture and the distinct smell. French women have a flair that is not clinical, but refined bohemian.

What is the most expensive item you have bought?
When I was 19 I bought a John Galliano black, backless fishtail gown. It was something you would wear to the Oscars and it cost me at least £1,000.



Angie Kirk: adores the sights of Paris

What is your definition of chic?
Lauren Bacall in *To Have and Have Not*. Chic women have grace and poise.

What is your style motto?
Be brave, banish black.

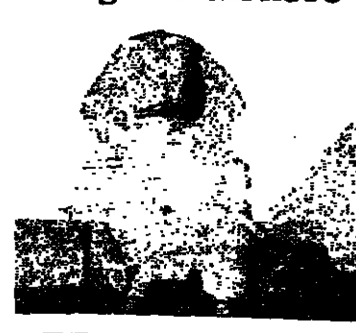
A FEW DAYS AT THE PYRAMIDS

A Long Weekend at the famous Mena House Hotel at Giza

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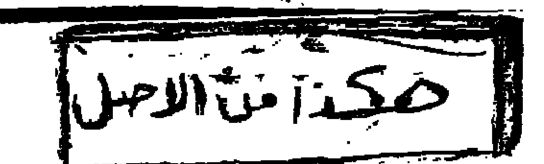
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LEFT: blue paisley skirt, £40, by Warehouse nationwide (0171-278 3491); off-the-shoulder jumper, £28.99, Jane Norman stores nationwide (0171-437 0132); fitted denim jacket, £24.99, by NJ Jeans, New Look stores nationwide (0500-454 094); wire flower necklace, £6.99, by River Island nationwide (0181-991 4500). ABOVE: yellow linen drawstring dress, £90, by French Connection nationwide (0171-399 7200); floral Liberty-print silk handkerchief, £3.95, Liberty, Regent Street W1 (0171-734 1234)

16 best buys

solely to the top end is to miss out on a whole spectrum of life-enhancing encounters. Not least the one that arises when you come face to face with the paisley print skirt in Top Shop that's the spitting image of ones that graced the catwalks four months earlier (for about a quarter of the price).

Pragmatically, summer is the best time for bulking up on high street buys: on the whole, flimsy, floaty fabrics work just fine in their cheap incarnations. And for quotidian holiday dressing (think oily sun lotions, sea spray, the wear and tear of pool life and round-the-clock daiquiris), there really is no other option. So save the designer stuff for the occasional evening out and to make yourself feel better once you return home.

The 16 pieces shown on these pages were chosen either because they represent great value for money or a key summer trend — or we simply found them irresistible. The yellow linen dress from French Connection is in one of this summer's most cutting-edge colours: the stone linen bustier with the painted flowers and beige net at the back is not a million miles from Dolce e Gabbana's.

The white, double-layer sleeveless dress from Karen Millen is a wearable, affordable nod to fashion's new take on block colours; the cream

> You can enjoy the frisson that comes from buying a frippery while spending wisely

and white patchwork linen and velvet skirt from Whistles is the perfect answer to any rustic-Boho aspirations; the cowboy/biker mid-brown boots from Russell & Bromley are the only footwear (apart from a pair of sandals) you'll need for next year, and we just loved the raffia handbags.

In the main, then, the point of the British high street (still the best in the world; even the imports, such as Zara and Kookaï seem to acquire a more interesting point of view once they arrive here) is that it is *the* place to head for unquestioning retail therapy.

It is where you are allowed to make a purchase lightly and to cast aside considerations about relative investment value. *It is where* you will never have to divide the cost of something by the number of times you might possibly wear it to justify the outlay, and where you may toss away mistakes without feeling too guilty.

Perhaps the best lesson from high street shopping is to be found in those communal changing rooms on a Saturday, when wave after wave of teenage girls clatter in to try on another new look, en route to another night out in yet another ritual weekly makeover.

Fashion — just in case those chi-chi minimalist designer shrines with their one-sweater-on-a-plinth approach to retailing and hushed aura round the till have made you forget — is meant to be fun.



ABOVE: hessian bag with embroidered rose detail and leather handles, £14.99, by River Island, as before; cream linen bag with coffee-bean detailing, £15, by Principles nationwide (0800 731 8286)

LEFT: cream wicker flower bag, from £9.99, by Top Shop, details as before; floral wedge sandals, £14.99, by Barratts stores nationwide (01274 614 110)

FASHION DIARY

By Lisa Armstrong

■ FOLLOWING the virtual retirement from the catwalk of Kate Moss and the refusal of the Versaces to pay Naomi Campbell's premium rates, Helena Christensen has announced her appointment as the creative director of *Nylon*, a new US magazine, also available here, that calls itself a "cutting-edge colour pictorial aimed at young women".

Christensen stopped pounding the catwalks two years ago to devote time to photography, but this is her first magazine job. In the first issue, on sale this week, she interviews Liv Tyler and photographs India. Apart from being possibly the most exciting thing about *Nylon*, Christensen's appointment shows how much slippage the "supermodel" tag has suffered. Like those shops that add the word "chic" to their names, the only models who claim to be "super" these days definitely aren't.

■ DONNA "hug-a-crystal" Karan has a reputation for being a little otherworldly. But at an exhibition in her Bond Street store last week to celebrate tribal colours, she seemed very focused indeed. While everyone else ignored the pictures, chatted on their mobiles and plunged headlong into the sushi, Donna launched into a series of probing questions about the British press. But this was no sly attempt to help her to compare advertising rates. No, what she really wanted to know was which British newspaper has the best horoscope.

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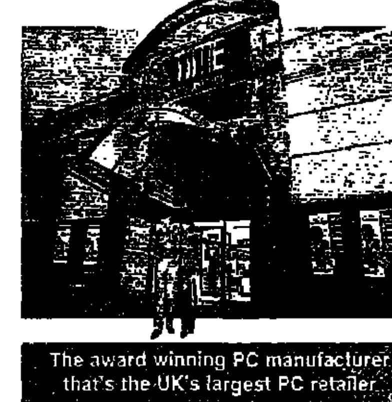






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THEATRE

A slice of London life from the Court

THIS PAGE

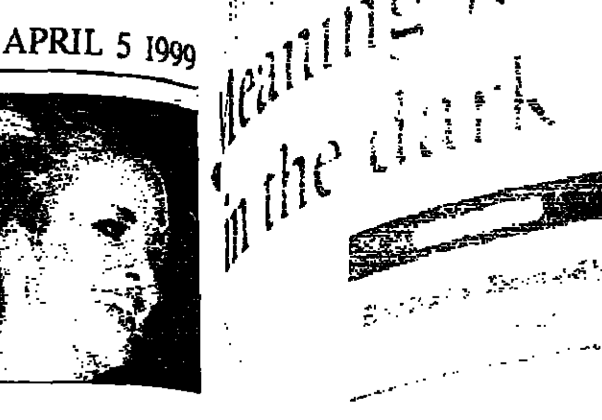
THE TIMES ARTS

POP

Catchy tunes in concert with Steps

FACING PAGE





This week in THE TIMES



■ THEATRE

The music of Abba is revisited in the new musical *Mamma Mia!*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

French contralto Nathalie Stutzman sings Bach with the OAE at the Barbican
CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ DANCE

John Hegley takes a funny turn on the floor as part of the *Spring Loaded* festival
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Who pays the price? A poisoned water supply causes deadly disease in the courtroom drama *A Civil Action* starring John Travolta. Reviewed Thursday; released Friday

Misadventures in space

THEATRE

Geometry of Miracles
Glasgow

It is the Depression year of 1929, yet the boss of Johnson Wax wants a new factory. Since *Geometry of Miracles* is a work by Robert Lepage, he signals his energy and optimism in a quaintly physical way, by tap-dancing on a desk. And since the evening's main subject is Frank Lloyd Wright, the tycoon is presented with a most unusual masterplan. He meets the architect and his disciples for a dinner at which tapering wine-glasses topped by plates elegantly illustrate the design. "I wanted an admin building, not a spaceship," he yells, adding: "It's great!"

Lepage's notion of the origins of Wright's celebrated Johnson Building in far-off Racine, Wisconsin, makes fine theatre. So does the moment that follows. Tony Guilfoyle, playing Wright, raises his walking stick like Prospero his wand, and, lo, circles and pillars and magic mushrooms and what might be the innards of a computer or the doodlings of Leonardo appear on the back wall. A pity that so much of the rest of the evening leaves you feeling rather the way Ariel must have felt when he was trapped in his tree.

When I saw the production in Salzburg last year, I forecast that, like many Lepage productions, it would change and improve as it voyaged the globe. Change it has, a bit. Improve it has not, at least not if you value narrative clarity, intellectual incisiveness and dramatic momentum. It did not help that I caught the piece as it passed through what comically calls itself the Lomond Room in the Scottish Exhibition Centre: an acoustically awful concrete bunker in a stunningly charmless people-palace. But I am not sure it will be vastly better when it arrives at the Lyttelton on April 14.

Never do we feel the title's full force. It would, I suppose, be unimaginative to show back-projections of finished buildings; but, were this managed with flair and a sense of wonder, we might understand better why Lepage seems to agree with Wright's self-estimate, which is that he was the greatest architect ever. Certainly that would give us a better idea of the meaning of "organic architecture" than offering some of the man's grumpily banal aperçus and, God help us, evoking the Guggenheim Museum by having one man twirl on a rope while another swivels in a barber's chair.



GEORGE WILKIE

Some changes but no improvement since Salzburg: a scene from Robert Lepage's cluttered new play about the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright

But the real problem is the lack of organic architecture of a production that veers bewilderingly from glimpses of the Russian Revolution (because Wright's heir married Svetlana Stalin) to guest-appearances by Beelzebub (to offer Wright eternal youth and be told by the dying nonagenarian that "youth is a quality and if you have it you don't lose it"). In between we see much of his idealistic but sadly flawed brotherhood of apprentices, more of his wife and daughter, and still more of the Caucasian mystic Georgi Gurdjieff.

Let's not patronise Lepage. Like Wright, he is fascinated by the complex challenges of space and, like Gurdjieff, by the oddities of the soul. Like both, he is one of the 20th century's adventurers. But are choric drillings, balletic contortions, yoga rituals, bizarre psychic games and the like enough to bring men and their ideas to life? On the evidence cluttered here, no.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Old friends in a muddle

Sacred Heart
Ambassadors

Mick Mahoney's latest slice of London life (and the last in the Royal Court's season of new writing from the National Theatre Studio) is more of a frustrating sliver than a satisfying wedge. A four-hander about the ghosts let loose when Patrick and Jerry, two fallen-out childhood friends, meet 20 years on, it wants to be an intricately counterpointed chamber piece, but fails to orchestrate its characters' concerns in a meaningful enough manner.

Granted, the play has its small merits. Or rather, its merits are in its small moments. Mahoney is at his best when quietly shading in the muted nuances of the former friends' misplaced affection or, particularly, the accumulated layers of feeling between Patrick and his wife Kate. Edward Hall's production opens promisingly with these two trapped in a time-worn torpor of comfortable pauses and well-trodden arguments.

But, as if recognising that too much low-key naturalism becomes simply undramatic, Mahoney tries to beef things up by introducing some rather unconvincing bones of contention. While Gucci-clad Jerry (Michael French) has prospered, the self-doubting Patrick (Ewan Stewart) has thrown in the towel and made do with being a handyman. This is apparently because he has a large chip on his shoulder about his background and his (unfortunately non-existent) Irish accent. Cue much stuff about class: all of it a bit perfunctory.

Ditto the inevitable romantic entanglements. Revelations keep coming from nowhere, and going much the same way. Patrick's friend Line (Cecilia Noble), the final member of the foursome and a high-flying media chick (or so we are told), turns out to be Jerry's ex-lover; and it transpires that Kate has always fancied Jerry and Line lusts after Patrick. And so on.

It all gets a bit muddled; and here, a more focused production would certainly have helped. There are some awkward changes of tone, several lines which deserve to be much funnier, and others which just sound silly. The experienced cast are left rather adrift: though there is some good acting, particularly from Doon Mackichan as a convincing Kate, all four were a bit flat on this night at least.

The design, as usual from the Royal Court, is faultless: the bare walls of the Ambassadors' stage space make for an appropriately grotty derelict church hall — the Sacred Heart of the title, which Jerry is bent on converting into des-res loft apartments.

No doubt Mahoney wants to say that things do indeed get complicated after years of ingrained resentment and self-doubt, of the little loyalties and blown-up betrayals that loom larger with time. But his script simply does not flesh out its characters or make their problems — or confusions — involving enough. I am afraid it left me unmoved.

NIGEL CLIFF

Tale without end

The Ladykillers
Wolverhampton

A FUNNY thing happened on the way to the final curtain. At the interval of this touring version of everyone's favourite Ealing Comedy the beige acreage of the safety curtain was lowered as usual and the audience made for the bars and foyers of the recently reopened Grand Theatre, refurbished with £8 million of lottery money. Half an hour later the safety curtain was still down when the house manager informed us of a little local difficulty in raising it.

The buzz of amusement greeting this announcement beat anything heard during the performance of the first half, and when the curtain began to inch its way upward, at a speed that suggested its ropes were being pulled by mice, audience enthusiasm mounted. Now we could see at the side of the stage the first panes of the telephone box — crucial to the plot — and if Tim Brooke-Taylor, Brian Murphy, Dulcie Gray and the others could act with their ankles we might yet resume the play.

Heave ho went the mice and into view came the lower edge of the map of King's Cross, site of Professor Marcus's cunning bank heist, and painted on the front gauze so as to help us to picture the play's setting. Now the cast would be able to act from their knees down, but alas, a crunching noise sent the curtain's climb into reverse. Not mice but men had been winching it up by hand and now the motor had burnt out. There would be no further acting that night.

Since everyone in the audience probably knew the film, nobody seemed to mind missing the second half, though the deaths of the Professor's gang, one by one, were surely going to be funnier than watching Mrs Wilberforce climb her rickety stairs yet again to interrupt the Boccherini being played in the room above. Gray was either unsure of her words or had not measured the acoustics of the theatre. Her voice was hard to hear.

Brooke-Taylor, creepily commanding, helped to bind together what we were allowed to see of Richard Baron's direction, but since this looked likely to follow Sandy Mackendrick's film as closely as possible there seemed little point in seeing it all done less well on a stage. Perhaps this is why the audience was content to go home halfway through.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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THEATRES

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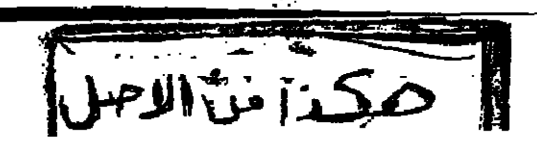
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Meaning lost in the dark

CONCERTS

Barbara Bonney
Manchester

It looked good — Barbara Bonney, resplendent in her blonde hair and gold evening dress, spotlit in front of the piano on the stage of a darkened Bridgewater Hall. But, oh dear, we couldn't read the titles of the songs let alone the texts and translations so usefully slipped into the programme. Except for those with an instant understanding of German or with a thoroughly detailed knowledge of the repertoire we were missing at least half the point of her studiously prepared and faultlessly delivered interpretations.

It was not a full house but, since 18 short songs do not add up to a full concert even with two encores thrown in, that was natural justice. It was, on the other hand, an unusually good audience in that it was both quietly attentive and polite enough to reserve its applause until the end of each group of songs. It deserved better and, happily, it was awarded the basic facility of adequate lighting in the second half of the recital.

A suitable compensation would have been a repeat performance of Grieg's Sechs Lieder, Op 48, which had been heard just before the interval. Bonney's Brahms, which produced the one example of a forced sound in the whole evening, was unexceptional. But the Grieg songs, for which she clearly has a special affection even when the words are German rather than Norwegian, were most persuasively done. It is true that, given the decorously amorous tone of the voice and Melvyn Tan's suggestive phrasing of the piano part, *Die verschwiegene Nachtigall* needed little further illumination. The melodic beauty of *Ein Traum*, though quite specific in its inspiration, was an experience itself. But when the soprano so meaningfully applied the dark colour resources of her lower register to the not so lyrical line of *Dereinst, Gedanke mein*, we really needed to know what grave thoughts she had in mind.

Perhaps the most impressive example of Bonney's partnership with Tan was in Wolf's *Kennst du das Land*. Presented as the culmination of the full set of Mignon songs, with both of them well into the characterisation by this point, it was performed not only passionately but with a paradoxical combination of fearless spontaneity and precisely calculated timing. If the group of four Strauss songs had less to offer in terms of dramatic collaboration, they were no less effective for their intimacy. And, accomplished recitalists that they both are, they reserved *the ecstasy of Zueignung* for the first of their encores.

GERALD LARNER

Swept along by the drama




The annual performance of Bach's St John Passion given on Good Friday at St John's, Smith Square by Stephen Layton's choral group Polyphony is rapidly becoming a popular tradition. The occasion is now a sell-out, and compared with the slightly flawed one I heard two years ago, this year's gave immense satisfaction. Indeed, I would rate it among the finest John Passions I have ever heard.

Layton's great achievement is to pace the drama of the Passion story with unerring instinct. The judgment scene in Part 2 had a tremendous narrative sweep, gathering momentum with the crowd choruses and reaching an electrifying climax at the mention of Barrabas and the scourging. Then after the two meditative solos with viole d'amore, sensitively played by Theresa Caudle and Jane Norman, it was back for another sequence of crowd scenes enacted with thrilling immediacy: the mock salutations of "Sei gegrüsset", the bloodthirsty exhortations of "Kreuzige" (Crucify) and vigorously fugal choruses thereafter.

So accomplished is Polyphony that it can respond to what is asked of it with no technical inhibitions. The choral inquiries "Wohin?" (Whither?) in the bass aria "Eilt, ihr angefochtenen Seelen" (Haste, ye oppressed souls), for example, were delivered with virtuoso lightness of touch. Shorn, additionally, of their conventional pauses, they conveyed to perfection the breathless flight on the "wings of faith".

Crucial to the continuity of the drama is the Evangelist, and John Mark Ainsley's contribution was exemplary: urgent, angry, poignant as required. His control of the tortured chromaticisms at Peter's weeping was impeccable — the ensuing tenor aria (James Gilchrist) and chorale forming another unbroken unit to bring Part I to an effective end. David Wilson-Johnson's Jesus was characteristically forthright and authoritative.

Emma Kirkby skipped delightfully in Christ's footsteps in "Ich folge dir gleichfalls" (I follow thee joyfully) — another example of a swift tempo being deployed for expressive rather than purely virtuoso effect. Catherine Wyn-Rogers supplied stylish contralto solos, and Neal Davies was the excellent bass soloist, doubling as Pilate.

The players of Canzona gave nothing but pleasure. Katharina Spreckelsen and Jane Downer deserve special mention for their skilful handling of the oboe d'amore.

BARRY MILLINGTON

As if by magic larger than that of St Paul's Cathedral, the dome of the Reading Room rises through the Great Court roof, a series of radial ribs constrained by spirals running in both directions

How to raise a roof the size of Wembley

Providing a covering for the newly revealed Great Court of the British Museum was a £97m logistical conundrum. **Nigel Hawkes** reports on the solution

The British Museum may be precious to Londoners, but its curators have always treated it with cheerful contempt. For them the collections have come first, and from the very moment it was completed Sir Robert Smirke's classical building has been chopped and changed to fit them in. Handsome rooms have been split with mezzanine floors, windows butchered and an entire portico demolished to make room for an extension.

Today the remaking of the museum goes on at undiminished speed. Now that the library has disappeared to St Pancras, the book stacks which surrounded the Reading Room in Smirke's Great Court have been demolished. A light and airy roof of huge dimensions is being built across the court, linking the Reading Room to the surrounding buildings. Of all the many changes the museum has seen in 150 years this is the greatest.

Casual visitors are entitled to be bemused by references to the Great Court, for few realise that the building has a courtyard the size of Wembley Stadium at its heart. Originally intended by Smirke to be an elegant open space within the building, where people might perambulate, the court was a failure from the start. The huge porticos on each side created a deep shade in which no grass would grow. "A dark, damp and dismal place where keepers' children played, its silence broken only by the cries of cats," one contemporary sneered. "A mere well of malaria, a pestilent congregation of vapours," said another.

Far from perambulating, the public was not even allowed access. The truth was that the keepers planned to fill the court with buildings as quickly as they could. The Reading Room and the stacks soon occupied it so completely that few have ever seen it.

The Great Court project, which will cost £97 million, aims to turn this lost space into "a great new public plaza for London" in the words of the architect Norman Foster. At its centre will be the circular Reading Room, a huge building with a dome larger than that of St Paul's Cathedral.

> 'The design was speeded up by computers. Doing it by hand would have taken a lifetime'

Surrounding it will be the largest covered courtyard in Europe, greater in length than Buckingham Palace. Creating such a roof, supported by Smirke's building along its edges and by the Reading Room in the middle — although not at the precise geometric centre — is a tricky task. Not only must it leave the classical façades and the Reading Room undamaged, but it must not rise high enough to be visible from Bloomsbury. It must be vast, yet almost flat.

To add to the difficulties, the roof has to be created out of pieces small enough to be carried to the site in lorries, and lifted over into the courtyard by crane. The only access, for demolition material coming out or construction material going in, is by crane. A "crash deck" has been laid across the building to catch anything the crane might drop before it can crash through the roof and destroy the collections below.

The solution, created by the consulting engineers Buro Happold, is a roof created as a strong lattice of high-grade steel linked by 1,826 "nodes", or joints — each different. The design was speeded up by computers. "You could do it by hand, but it would take a lifetime that way," says Stephen Brown of Buro Happold.

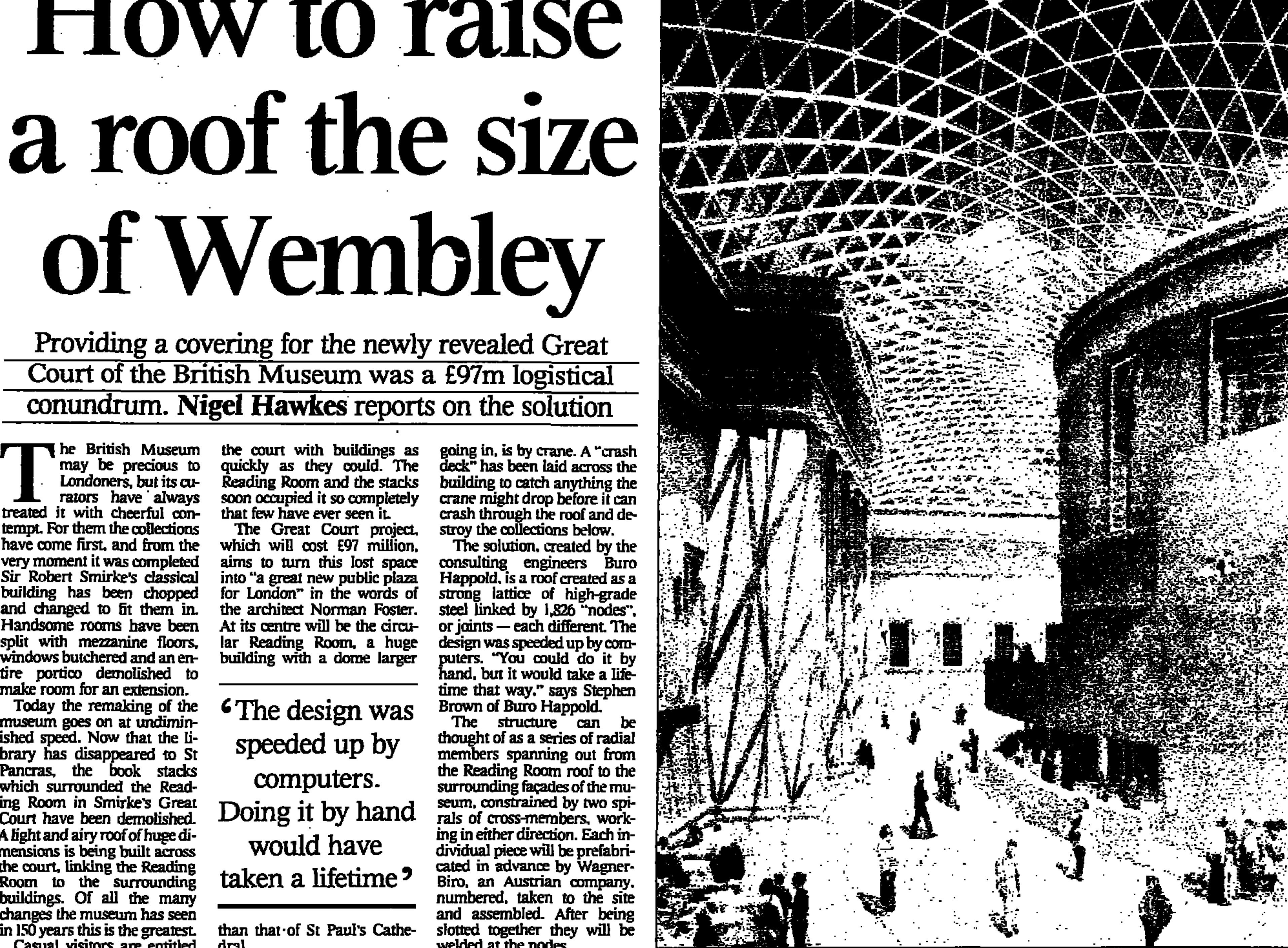
The structure can be thought of as a series of radial members spanning out from the Reading Room roof to the surrounding façades of the museum, constrained by two spirals of cross-members, working in either direction. Each individual piece will be prefabricated in advance by Wagner-Biro, an Austrian company, numbered, taken to the site and assembled. After being slotted together they will be welded at the nodes.

Around the top of the Reading Room, Smirke's brother Sydney designed a "Snow Gallery", a two-metre-wide flat roof encircling the dome and designed to catch the snow sliding off the dome and prevent it crashing down on to the lightly roofed book stacks below.

This gallery, suitably strengthened, will form a ring balancing thrusts from either side of the roof, while the weight of the roof will be carried by a ring of 20 steel columns lying against the Reading Room walls and concealed beneath a new stone cladding. The Reading Room was never meant to be seen from the outside, so nothing is lost by concealing its rough brickwork from view.

At the other ends of the ribs, the roof will rest on sliding bearings, allowing it to spread laterally as the props are removed and it takes its own weight — 420 tons of steel, and another 320 tons of double glazing in the form of 3,312 triangular panes of glass. This should mean that the roof will add no new distorting forces to either the Reading Room or the museum façade.

When complete, the roof should float in a voluptuous series of curves, with no visible means of support, above the court below. The environment inside will be comfort-heated and cooled, but not fully air-conditioned. Together with its reconstructed South Portico, the Great Court may at last achieve the effect for which Smirke strived — a perambulatory of which to be proud.

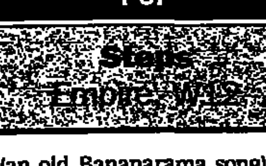


A computer-generated image of what the British Museum's Great Court will look like

Leading article, page 21

Something for the youngest ones

POP



The vast army of under-ten pop fans who were initially mobilised by the Spice Girls has now acquired a taste for going to concerts that would have seemed unnaturally precocious even five years ago. And Steps, the three-girl/two-boy vocal group who recently embarked on their first tour, are proving to be one of this pre-teen market's most favoured bands.

Sandwiched between Lauren, aged 7, and Jack, aged 6, at the Shepherds Bush Empire on Friday, I was intrigued to see how well-equipped and clued-up they and all their friends were. Armed with fluorescent tubes, whistles and shakers they responded with noisy bravado to a series of pre-show messages flashed up on screens to either side of the stage. "Are you ready to scream?" Evidently they were. "Have you been to the toilet?" Yes, they had.

Steps, for their part, have absorbed the dictum that in order to attract this kind of audience, it is necessary to adopt a musical format that does not repel the parents who will be required to purchase tickets at £14.50 a shot and provide the necessary supervision and taxi service on the night.

Thus, as the group set off at a lively romp with the chirpy harmonies and catchy pop choruses of *Better Best Forgotten* and *Last Thing On My Mind* (an old Bananarama song), a comforting sense of continuity with the past was established. As any thirtysomething would instantly have recognised, this was basically the sound of Abba hitched to a modern house beat.

Although Abba were a joke at the time, their oeuvre is now celebrated in West End musicals, Brit Award shows and karaoke bars everywhere. Steps, for all the superficial similarities, are not in the same league, and as far as this performance was concerned, a more appropriate comparison would be with Bucks Fizz or any of those other duty-free Eurovision acts.

Aided by a five-strong troupe of dancers, Steps tackled their simple song and intricate dance routines with a bright, energetic zeal, conducting the event with the relentlessly enforced jollity of a Saturday morning kids' TV show: "Who hasn't got a copy of our album? Give them a boo." The set encompassed everything worth performing from their album *Step One*, padded out with a medley of Disney cartoon themes and an insipid version of *I'll Be There For You*, the theme from TV's *Friends*.

Call me old-fashioned, but I found the absence of any musicians in the building, let alone on the stage, a distinct disappointment. However, the fact that the entire performance was sung over backing tapes mattered not a jot to Lauren and Jack, who were up on their feet dancing along to the finale of *Heartbeat*, *One For Sorrow* and *Tragedy*, while giant balloons and showers of silver confetti rained down on audience and band alike.

"London, you've been the best audience in the world," one of the Steps boys said from the stage. Even Lauren and Jack looked as if they might have heard that one before as they gamely raised one last scream, on cue from the screens.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ANGELA LUBRANO



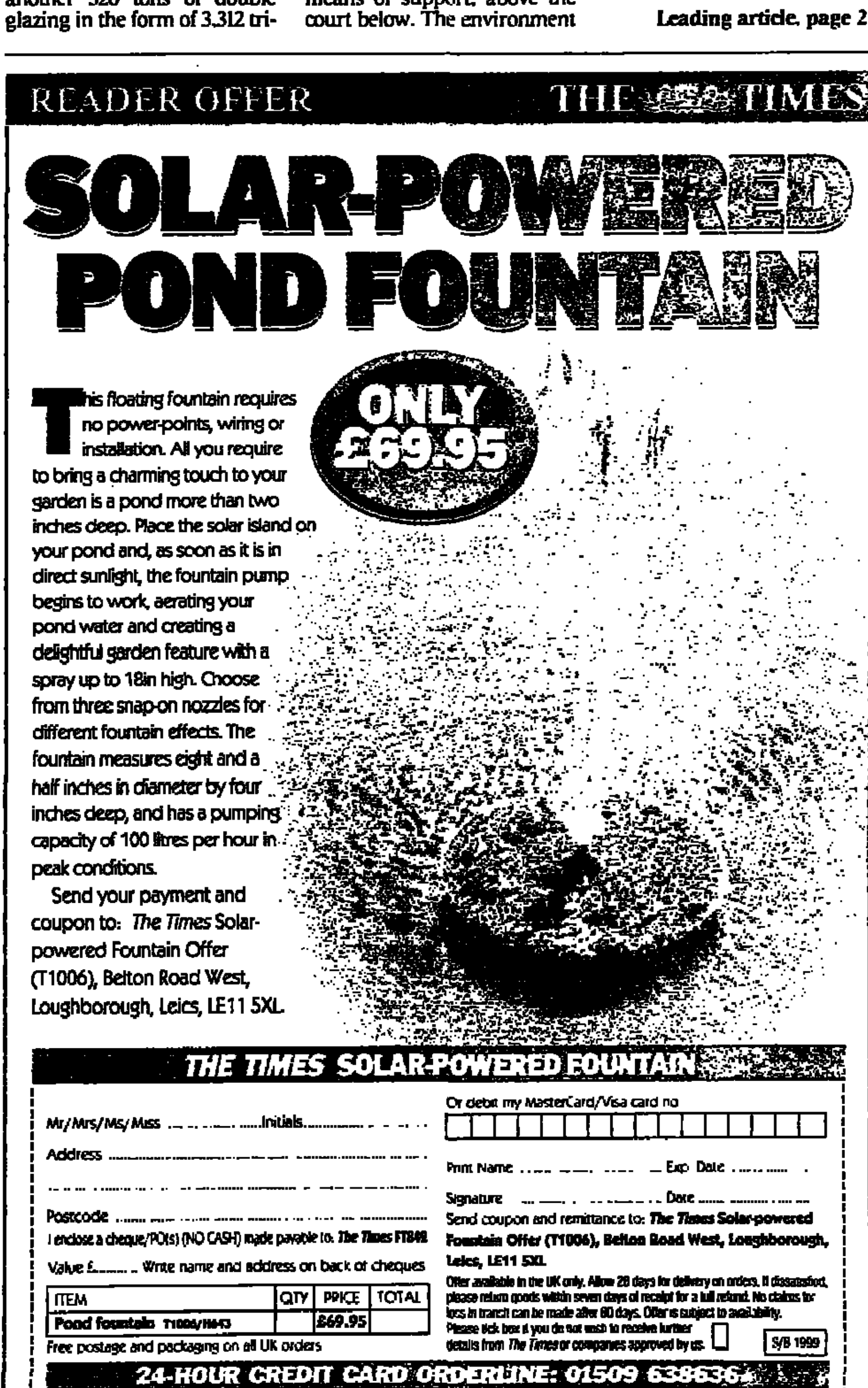
The Steps in action: "This was basically the sound of Abba hitched to a modern house beat"

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CHANGING TIMES

Europe must face a cruel truth

Kosovo ends the myth of security without sacrifice

Kosovo is a turning point for European security. Its outcome will determine its shape in the post-Cold War world, just as the Berlin blockade of 1948-49 defined the Cold War era. For most of the 1990s, the West has believed that security can be obtained without much risk or cost. These illusions have been shattered by Kosovo, in the very month that Nato is marking its 50th anniversary with a summit in Washington that is supposed to agree a new "strategic concept".

The illusions date from the end of the Cold War. That was when President George Bush coined the phrase "the new world order" to describe the successful reversal of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. But these words were remaindered almost as quickly as "the end of history", that other fashionable self-delusion of 1989-91.

The Gulf War coalition turned out to be unique. The West did not have an answer to the prolonged fighting in the former Yugoslavia, the various civil wars in the former Soviet Union, let alone the slaughters of Africa, from Rwanda to Somalia.

Bosnia, in particular, cruelly exposed European pretensions. At the start of the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1991, Jacques Poos, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, proclaimed "this is the hour of Europe, not the hour of the Americans". The Bush Administration was willing to allow the European Union to take the lead, partly in the spirit of "see how you get on without us". There followed four years of killing, transatlantic tensions and thankless work by British and other forces on the ground before the American-brokered Dayton agreement of 1995. The Americans claim it was only the belated bombing that worked. But the tide of the war had already changed by then. The Bosnian Serbs, having achieved most of their objectives, were being forced on the defensive by the Croat offensive and by the Bosnian Muslims.

Peter Riddell

Three lessons were drawn. First, the international community could, and should, intervene in what had previously been regarded as internal conflicts when these threatened humanitarian disasters. Human rights has become as important as, if not more important than, national sovereignty — as also shown by the Lords ruling in the Pinochet case and the Northern Ireland talks. The pressure to act is higher when abuses are close to home and harrowing pictures of refugees appear on television. Among the strongest advocates of the Nato action have been politicians who made their name on rights issues and in the anti-nuclear, peace campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s, such as Robin Cook here and Joschka Fischer in Germany.

Secondly, whatever happened in the rest of the world, Nato (led by the United States) would have to take the lead in Europe, even without specific United Nations authorisation. The UN has neither the resources nor the will to stop fighting, while the re-emergence of the Russian and Chinese veto in the Security Council may prevent any action being approved.

The EU is unable to act on its own. No one imagines that the EU could have kept Greece in line over Kosovo, as Nato just about has so far. The EU common foreign and security policy is still sketchy, while only Britain and, to a lesser extent, France have well trained forces which can be deployed quickly to operations such as Kosovo. Otherwise, Europe is way behind America in having up-to-date and mobile equipment for such conflicts.

Thirdly, politicians in Washington concluded both from Bosnia and Iraq that precision bombing and cruise missiles could change the course of conflicts. The small number of American casualties in the Gulf created the myth of the high-tech war, and cheap and clinical intervention, while the Somalia debacle in 1993 underlined both the risks in committing ground troops and the public's hostile reaction.

That has, however, created an incompatibility of ends and means. On the one hand, Western leaders accept the need to intervene to stop mass slaughter and migration. But, on the other hand, the past ten days have shown that bombing alone cannot prevent such aggression and a humanitarian disaster. Nato leaders have looked muddled and impotent, being unable or unwilling to mobilise the means to achieve the ends.

Whatever doubts were expressed earlier, Nato now has to complete the job. At a minimum that means ensuring that the refugees can return to their homes in Kosovo and be protected there by an international force. That may involve the use of ground troops at some stage.

It is not tenable to argue that Kosovo is none of our business. It is in the strategic interests of Britain, and of Europe, to reverse the Serbian aggression. There are direct risks to the stability of surrounding countries and south-eastern Europe. Moreover, a massive influx of refugees north and eastwards threatens social and political stability in the heart of Europe, and has become a key factor in Germany, Austria and Italy.

The credibility of Nato is also at stake. This is not some macho thing. Security depends on evidence of cohesion, political will and, if necessary, the successful use of force. A failure in Kosovo would undermine Nato and post-Cold War stability in Europe. No wonder the three new entrants to Nato (the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland) are watching the conflict so nervously. There are also lessons for the EU. While European security still depends on the United States, and on Nato, the Americans will rightly expect the Europeans to strengthen their own armed forces, to be more of a partner. The days of the post-Cold War peace dividend in Europe are over.

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The Serbian endgame

Milosevic always gambled on partition, and plans are already being drawn up

Over last weekend the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Nato authorities have all repeated their assurances that there will be no invasion of Yugoslavia by Nato ground troops. Why were they able to do so with such confidence? Not because the Nato bombing will force President Milosevic to the conference table; he has always intended to go there. Not because the bombing can prevent the continued, and terrible, expulsion of the Albanian population.

There will be no Nato invasion of Kosovo, if only because such an invasion would take months to mount; by the end of this month, the Serbian campaign in Kosovo will be over. What will then have to be decided is not whether to invade, but the negotiation of the peace terms that President Milosevic will offer, after having created the situation he wanted on the ground.

Tony Blair's article in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph* shows that he is well aware of the situation, Nato is going to face. He used the article to lay down the peace terms as he would see them. They represent Nato's negotiating position. "Milosevic must be made to do the following before we stop. He must cease his campaign of ethnic cleansing; withdraw his troops; and agree to an international force that can guarantee that the dispossessed of Kosovo can return in safety now and for the future, under a proper plan that ensures that their rights are respected."

By the end of April, four weeks from now, the first condition will already have been met. The campaign of ethnic cleansing will be completed; it will have been taken to whatever point President Milosevic thinks most advantageous to Serbia. It will then stop.

Mr Blair is not insisting that the "international force" which will supervise the return of the dispossessed Albanians must be a Nato force. That was the intention at Rambouillet, but the bombing has made that impossible for Yugoslavia. Presumably it will be a UN peacekeeping force, probably with a Russian presence, possibly backed by potential Nato strength.

Nato has already recognised that the Albanians will not return to Kosovo if they are going, once again, to be governed by the Serbs. In theory, that might mean that Nato was committing itself to an independent Kosovo, or a Kosovo protectorate on the present boundaries. That would obviously not be compatible with the Serbian war aims, but could be achieved only after victory in a ground war against Yugoslavia. It would take that to reverse Serbia's ethnic cleansing by force. Fortunately, there is the alternative of partition; it is not a perfect alternative, but it has been the 20th-century solution to ethnic conflict in many countries, including Cyprus, India, Ireland, Palestine and, most notably, Bosnia.

If we assume that President Milosevic's policy in Kosovo has throughout been based on his experience in Bosnia, it becomes much easier to understand. When he rejected the Rambouillet terms, he must have calculated that Nato would feel forced to implement the long-delayed threat of bombing, however reluctantly. He was prepared to use the Nato bombing as an opportunity to change the balance of population in Kosovo in Serbia's favour. Months of preparation must have gone into the lightning campaign of ethnic cleansing. He would have calculated that Nato would be under strong pressure from the hundreds of thousands of refugees. He knew he would have Russia's diplomatic support. He presumably assumed, from the beginning, that Kosovo, like Bosnia, would eventually have to be partitioned. The purpose of this limited war, from his point of view, would have been to improve the terms of the partition which had become inevitable.

William Rees-Mogg

So far everything has gone to plan, to Milosevic's plan. Nato did start the bombing and it has provided diplomatic cover for Serbian national support for the ethnic cleansing campaign. Serbia has by now achieved the expulsion of a large part of the Albanian population of Kosovo. The bombing, not surprisingly, has raised Milosevic's status as the leader of his own Serbian people. Russia has given diplomatic support, and Russian public opinion is strongly pro-Serbian. Nato has not invaded, nor taken a decision to invade; Nato is not at present able to stop, let alone reverse, the ethnic cleansing. The bombing has so far done relatively minor long-term damage to the economic infrastructure of Serbia, and presumably Nato does not intend to inflict total damage.

The choice that will be offered to Nato is, in effect, an offer it cannot refuse. Nato can have a Russian-brokered peace settlement on terms quite close to Tony Blair's, if it is prepared to accept the partition of Kosovo along the lines of the partition of Bosnia. The refugees would then be able to return to an Albanian sector of Kosovo, however that might be determined, where they would enjoy autonomy under UN protection. This will not be a defeat either for Nato or Yugoslavia. Both sides will have made concessions, but will have achieved much of what they wanted. At the price of the partition of Kosovo, Milosevic will have consolidated the boundaries of an ethnically united Serbia, and Nato will have limited the Kosovo conflict and restored the refugees, if not completely. From the humanitarian point of view, a great evil has already been committed; this settlement would improve the condition of the refugees, but ground war would make it even more desperate.

Nato does, of course, have the other option, of war. Not just war in the air, but war on the ground, an invasion of Kosovo, a war against Yugoslavia. That is still not inconceivable, if Milosevic does not now follow his own exit strategy. In some months' time, if there were no sign of serious peace talks, Nato would almost certainly have to build up the threat of ground war, just as it built up the threat of bombing. If that threat did not produce a peace settlement, an invasion might even have to be carried out. There will, therefore, be staff plans, and deliberate leaks of staff plans, for full-scale ground war. But that will be a last resort; it will only actually happen if Milosevic forces it on Nato.

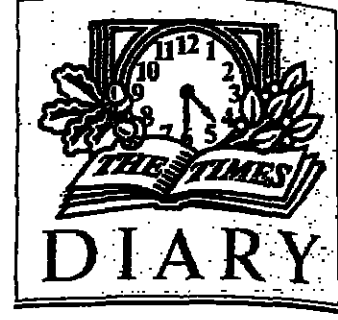
Milosevic is a ruthless war criminal, but so far he has followed a consistent but limited objective, the consolidation of a strong Serbian national state out of the ethnic break-up of Yugoslavia. That could only now be secured by a successful peace negotiation. It is in his interest to achieve that negotiation.

Nato has equally strong reasons to want a settlement. No one knows what to do for the dispossessed Kosovans; they are too great a burden for the poor neighbouring states. No Nato power wants to welcome them in large numbers as permanent refugees. War would not get them home, but would cause immense further suffering, and risk a wider Balkan conflict. It would also require a massive military effort and involve heavy casualties.

The war decision would be taken in the United States, which would have to provide a substantial proportion of the troops, and an even higher proportion of the technology. Even if Nato could be held together on such a policy, United States opinion is against a ground war and is likely to remain so. Americans remember the Vietnam disaster, let alone Somalia.

The United States is prepared, in the last resort, to go to war to protect a major American interest, to resist aggression, or to bring to an end an intolerable crime against humanity. That is the reason for the Nato bombing. If President Milosevic, with Russian support, offers peace terms, the United States will not risk heavy losses, or the creation of a second Vietnam in the Balkans, in order to take revenge on the undoubted wickedness of Serbia's ethnic-cleansing policy. In the Second World War, the policy of the United States was "unconditional surrender". This is not the Second World War. Kosovo — however tragic — is one of the limited wars which have followed the ethnic break-up of Yugoslavia, and both Nato and Serbia, as well as the Russians, are already planning on the assumption of a negotiated peace.

comment@the-times.co.uk



DIARY

What a drag

AFTER fighting sabs for decades, New Forest huntsmen face a new enemy: each other. In an encounter reverberating around the country, they have split acrimoniously between diehards refusing to contemplate compromise and more forward-looking types who reluctantly accept that change is the only way of preserving their sport.

As the Government edges towards limiting hunting, Michael Thomas (below) hopes to establish a drag-hunt from the embers of the New Forest Buckhounds, which ceased chasing fallow deer in 1997. But its former chairman has been repeatedly blocked by the local old guard who consider hunting without a quarry heretical.

"It's never been all about killing animals," says Thomas. "It's about hound-work and horsemanship." Anne Millar, who leads the opposition, says: "A drag-hunt does not count as genuine hunting. It is only genuine if there is the scent of an animal. With the drag, it is the scent of aniseed or something."



AFTER a security review at Eastbourne police station, three doors were added. But the move was undermined when it was found that the locks were mounted on the wrong side of the doors.

■ CLANSMEN of Tony Blair's builder are taking charge of British architecture. Deyan Sudjic, a member of Lord Rogers of Riverside's circle, is expected to be appointed by Chris Smith as his new architectural custodian.

Sudjic, the founder editor of *Blueprint* magazine and one-time partner of the daughter of the second husband of Rogers's first wife, would replace Lord St John of Fawsley in our affections: the new quango is to subsume the Royal Fine Art Commission.

Sudjic's appointment would follow the election of Marco Goldschmied, the managing director of Richard Rogers Partnership, as President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Lucy Musgrave, Rogers Jr's partner, already runs the Architecture Foundation.

A WELSH MP wants his colleagues' wages docked to reflect their imminent emasculation. Once a Taffy assembly is set up, Labour's Allan Rogers has urged Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, to adopt the policy because he and his kind will be effectively job-sharing. Imagine the kerfuffle if Donald Dewar considered such a plan for Scottish MPs.



■ GENERAL PINOCHET almost stopped Geoffrey Robertson from fine-tuning democracy in Mauritius. The leftward-leaning QC was due to fly out on Good Friday to advise on the constitution.

But beforehand he had to deliver to his publishers *Crimes against Humanity*, which includes a chapter on the generalissimo. With all the legal upsets, Robertson was working up to the last minute. "It's an occasional hazard for writers on expanding areas of the law," Robertson told me, as he darted for the last call with Kathy Lette, his novelist wife.

THE Prince of Wales's least favourite journalist is to pursue a fellowship at the New York Public Library. Anthony Holden will research a life of Leigh Hunt, the Romantic poet, fined £500 and imprisoned in 1813 for attacking the then heir to the throne.

EDWARD WELSH

'If you buy anything of value, you drink to it. This applies to cars, fur coats . . . anything the purchaser feels he can't afford, if the truth be known'

Anna Blundy

Buy it and you have to *obmyt* it. Russians are very superstitious people and any purchase that has not been satisfactorily *obmyted* is liable to find itself lost, stolen, vandalised or otherwise rendered useless to the owner.

This superstitious attitude to life is highly infectious, and it takes only a month or two of residence to find oneself forbidding people from whistling indoors (you will be penniless for ever), refusing to sit at the corner of a table (you will never marry), avoiding shaking hands across the threshold (a bad omen for friendship) and always putting empty bottles on the floor (not sure about this one, but it is probably something to do with avoiding confusion in your drunken stupor over which bottles are still of use and which are not).

The *obmytiye*, however, is a different issue entirely. As much a tradition as a mere superstition. A part of national heritage and a process considered to be a cheap alternative to expensive, and anyway hugely unreliable, insurance.

To the Westerner it can be the cause of great confusion. The first time I ever came across it (I realised in retrospect) was ten years ago when I was forced to participate in a vile, drunken evening at a Korean restaurant that served only mushrooms in soy sauce, and sliced cucumber (there were shortages in Moscow back then). The entertainment was a strip show that began at 6pm and involved some bored teenagers in yellow leotards writhing round the largely empty tables.

Sasha, a terrifying thug, spent the whole evening toasting his new car, which seemed to me the height of vulgarity and bad taste. It brought out the worst in me, and, as a kind of anti-materialistic backlash, had me up on my feet every few minutes making toasts to world peace, the love of my neighbour and the spirituality in all of us.

It seemed depressing that people who only a year or so earlier had amazed me with their apparent absence of consumer psychosis and their heightened appreciation for the finer things in life had so quickly transformed into the worst kind of suburban American property enthusiasts. Not only was property suddenly not theft, it seemed to be a human right. Little did I know.

Years later I got off a boat in the Volga town of Togliatti and bought a ceramic blue and gold fish-shaped decanter with some charming little shot glasses to match. As I re-embarked, a trumpeter told me I should *obmyt* the set later. Since *obmyt* comes from the words "to wash", I thought: "He's right. I must give it a rinse," and I wandered off back to my cabin. I had no idea that he was in fact inviting me for a drink.

It all became clear when a friend recounted a fur-coat-buying trip to Greece. Olga and her husband had taken a cruise around the Mediterranean with the object of buying this coat (they are apparently cheaper there than in Russia and are obligatory winter wear for women here). Safely back en route for Russia, Olga's husband spent three days *obmyting* the coat with some friends he had made at the bar. I imagined him hanging over the side of this ship washing it in the sea for three days. When she explained what he was actually doing, it was even stupider.

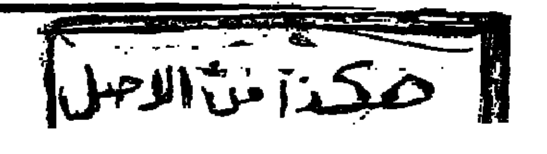
Basically, if you buy anything of value you have to drink to it. This is similar in concept to wetting the baby's head, but in Russia it applies to cars, fur coats, televisions and anything else that the purchaser feels he cannot really afford, if the truth be known.

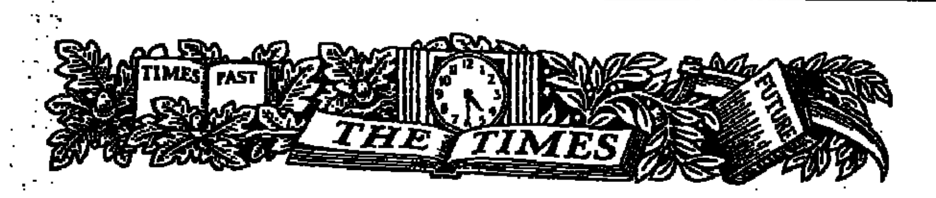
Obmytiye is taken very seriously indeed here. Another friend of mine recently had her car stolen and called the police to report the crime. "Did you *obmyt* the vehicle, madam?" they asked, as though asking whether or not it was legally insured. "Actually, no," she replied. "We had to go away the day after we bought it and we never got round to it."

The policemen rolled their eyes, tutted and shrugged their shoulders. They seemed to be saying: "Why should we investigate the theft of this car when its very owners cannot be bothered to look after it properly?" Everybody has proof of the *obmytiye* — stories about the appalling disasters that befell items they stupidly neglected.

Now your Western cynic might think that this is just another Russian excuse for drinking as much as possible, but I attended a fur-coat *obmytiye* last week, and sitting around it, drinking champagne and discussing its virtues, one did feel that even if it did get stolen or lost in the near future, at least it had been fully appreciated first.

comment@the-times.co.uk





PHASE THREE

Nato has two weeks in which to save Kosovo

Ten days after its military intervention began Nato is only now beginning to inflict the scale of damage necessary to alter Serbian calculations. The shift to Phase Three, an intensive bombardment directed at the entire infrastructure of the Serbian state, has brought obvious results. A network of military establishments has been crippled, key bridges destroyed, and oil installations disabled. The authorities in Belgrade, for whom this had been almost a phoney war for the first week, are no longer under such illusions. The various Nato publics, especially in those nations providing the majority of military materiel, have, if anything, become more not less determined to see this enterprise through. The calculated, cynical, and criminal manner in which President Milosevic has attempted to eradicate his Kosovan Albanian population has persuaded many who might have harboured doubts that there is no turning back now.

Nato has not, however, enjoyed the best of fortune. Adverse weather conditions have hindered the air campaign. The sheer determination of Serbia to get rid of the Kosovans has undoubtedly taken generals and politicians alike by surprise. A small army of armchair analysts, all operating with the considerable benefit of hindsight, has spent much of this past weekend wondering why the refugee exodus was not anticipated. In truth, even if Nato had known exactly what Mr Milosevic intended to do, there was little that could have stopped him. The hope was that the first two phases of this campaign could be completed at sufficient speed as to limit that damage. This, unfortunately, has not proved to be the case.

As a result the Serbian leadership has managed to displace approximately one third of the Kosovan Albanian population. If matters continue at this pace then Mr Milosevic will have removed the entire dissident population from his renegade province. Nato resources would then need to be redeployed from air power to a very different form of ground war, a battle against mass hunger and disease. Nato has the orders and the opportunity to alter the balance of this awful equation. The weather is improving and the military is operating on the longest practical political leash. The United States and Britain, as senior Nato members, must ensure that the moment is seized and the momentum intensified. Absolutely nothing else will persuade the Yugoslav Army that it must sue for peace.

Mr Milosevic will not step aside quietly. It must be assumed that he will remain in power in Belgrade. If he has drained even half of the Kosovan Albanians from his soil then he will offer the rest not autonomy but partition. He will attempt to keep those parts of northern Kosovo that have an historic hold upon, and economic value to his country. He will offer Nato the almost impossible task of reconstructing human life in the remainder. Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, will doubtless be solicited as the middleman for this spurious "compromise". The Serbian leadership will assume that a war-weary Nato leadership will eat out of his hands. Mr Milosevic must be told, in unmistakable tones, that no such arrangement can ever be accepted.

The next two weeks are of fundamental importance to Nato. If Phase Three does not work then, in air power terms, there does not appear to be a Phase Four available. The Nato command would be faced with a fateful choice between ground troops and an all-out invasion of Kosovo or scaling back its aims and accepting the resulting humiliation. The preparations for the former should begin because the latter would be little short of a disaster. Nato's credibility as a military organisation would be shattered. There is still time for an air barrage of sufficient accuracy and scope to make all the difference. Nato has begun to alter the calculus of this conflict. Strong nerves are needed this week to ensure that this advantage really counts.

TREASURE IN HEAVEN

The Church needs a tax break

The Christian Church is about to mark the onset of its third millennium. The VAT system is barely 25 years old. But, in its relatively brief span, the latter has come to prove itself a serious strain on ecclesiastical funds. Though when VAT was first mooted in the early 1970s many may have hoped that charitable organisations might have been exempted, they were proved lamentably wrong. The annual VAT bill payable on repairs done to listed church buildings alone now amounts to some £16 million. If unlisted and non-Anglican churches are included, this bill rises by almost as much again. Britain's places of worship are facing an incapacitating monetary crisis. And at a time of declining congregations and dwindling collections, churches are floundering in a financial mire. Surely the forthcoming celebration of Christianity's 2000th birthday would provide an opportune moment to try to redress this wrong?

The Government already offers some help in the form of funds delivered through such organisations as National Heritage. But by imposing VAT on repairs to church buildings what it gives so generously with one hand is filched back with the other. This illogicality arose as the result of an inconsistency in the tax system: new works and alterations to listed buildings are zero-rated, but repairs incur the full rate of VAT at 17.5 per cent which means that, while building a new parish hall might incur no tax, the repair of the leaking church roof can prove prohibitively expensive. Ecclesiastical organisations wrangle for hours with that somewhat less spiritual organisation, Customs and Excise, debating the boundaries. Does refitting an organ, for instance, constitute a new work or a repair?

The Government's refusal to clarify such areas of confusion is inconsistent. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, may have acknowledged that it is "odd" to have an anomaly which provides "effectively an incentive for people to alter and build anew rather than repair the best of the old". But his colleagues argue that changes would entangle an already confusing VAT system in even more complexities. Even if they did want to reduce the rate, ministers claim that their hands are tied by an EU directive which excludes repairs to historic buildings in the list of items accepted as eligible for a lower VAT.

These are weak excuses. Since the Government admits that the current system is anomalous, it should propose the case for change at the Council of Ministers. It may not encounter that much opposition. Within the EU there is already a broad recognition that it would be appropriate to accept historic buildings to be suitable for a lower VAT rate. Britain's churches — like those of Europe — provide some of the nation's richest cultural repositories as well as important centres for both rural and urban communities to meet. Religion can act as a binding force among increasingly fragmented societies. It is time for the Government to prove that it has faith in its convictions.

MUSEUM PEACE

Visitors will find repose in an elegant new courtyard

Last autumn 140 years of history ended not with a bang but a whisper as the British Museum's Round Reading Room closed. Academics, whose elbows had worn smooth the same desks that Thomas Hardy and Lenin once leant over, gathered up their pens and papers and half-moon spectacles and decamped to St Pancras. At the time these creatures of intellectual habit were unsettled. A tradition as English as Earl Grey tea and London fog was passing and they lamented it.

Now, six months later, most of them are contentedly ensconced in an impressive new building, availing themselves of improved research facilities. No doubt the myriad tiny habits which accrete through the years, condensing first into customs, ossifying slowly into history, are already reforming at hundreds of new reading desks. But those who still mourn their lost Bloomsbury building will find much to console them in the architectural plans for the British Museum described in *The Times* Arts pages today. As the Round Reading Room becomes a centrepiece for the largest covered courtyard in Europe, one of Britain's most demure architectural icons will recapture the vision which inspired its designer from the start.

Sir Robert Smirke first presented his [illegible] new British Museum in 1923. In these he proposed four wings containing galleries set around a rectangular courtyard, but as work progressed it became clear that additional storage was required. And since the museum's collection was given priority over the aesthetics of the building that was to house it, Smirke's plans for elegant peramubulatory spaces were peremptorily changed. The Round Reading Room and adjoining bookstacks were constructed inside his proposed courtyard. Graceful Georgian proportions were chopped up with mezzanines, elegant window sashes were sliced and a portico was demolished and the space purloined for the addition of an extension.

Now, with the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, alterations — intended to be completed in time for the 250th anniversary of the museum in 2003 — will echo Smirke's original aesthetic. In a spectacular feat of engineering, a soaring, ribbed dome will be thrown — so cunningly constructed that it will appear unsupported — over classical façades. Within this covered plaza, temperature-modulated, flooded with light, the public will be able to stroll. If anything this design will be an improvement on Smirke's original plans for his intentions were thwarted from the start by a deep shade of stone in which grass struggled vainly to grow, and pestilent vapours congregated. But now, just as intellectual cogs are continuing quietly to turn in the new St Pancras location of the great British Library, so another piece of history will be seamlessly recreated as the public once more finds space for contemplation amid one of the finest treasure collections in the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nato planning is at 'half-cock'

From Sir John Weston

Sir, Now is not a time to carp, and our military and diplomatic colleagues need public support and encouragement in the current predicament.

But it is also, surely, the moment for the Alliance to put its money where its mouth is. We have told voters and taxpayers for years that the new Nato in the Nineties is about such things as "combined joint task forces", flexible and rapid deployment, and force projection, especially from sea to land. We have even practised such concepts expensively in far-flung spots to demonstrate their viability. We tell the UN that Nato has professional expertise to lend them in peacekeeping and crisis management.

It therefore will not do to say that all this is suddenly in the too-difficult box. Military planning is at half-cock if it does not provide for follow-through to make good in Kosovo on the ground.

This is Europe, not the other side of the world. If the Americans will not join us there, the Europeans may have to give a lead again: as we did for several years under the UN flag in Bosnia, before the Dayton agreement was struck and Nato came in to police a peace which events have now again placed in jeopardy.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WESTON
(Permanent Representative to Nato, 1992-95; Permanent Representative at the United Nations, 1995-98).
13 Denbigh Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey TW10 6EN.
April 2.

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, This is perhaps the time to appreciate the greatness of a former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson. He resisted successfully the enormous pressures to join the US in its war in Vietnam. The pressure emanated from President Lyndon Johnson to whom Harold Wilson was tied not only by the special relationship but also by deep sympathy for his social outlook and policy. Moreover, the group that the US tried to prevent taking over all of Vietnam was very nasty, as evidenced later by the "boat people", perhaps the most tragic refugee movement of the last half century (of whom many perished at sea).

Yet we all agree that Harold Wilson was right and gratitude is appropriate. We should remember this before we get involved yet more deeply in the Balkans.

Yours sincerely,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College,
Cambridge CB3 0DS.
April 1.

From Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius

Sir, What an excellent article by Libby Purves on the Kosovo affair ("Utter, bloody, folly", March 30). It was Clemenceau who said: "War is too serious a matter to entrust to military men." One hates to contradict him, but perhaps it is too important a business to be left to politicians.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JUNGIUS,
Lawithick, Mylor Churchtown,
Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 5UE.
April 1.

From Mr Gerhard Spanier

Sir, Has there ever been a civil war during which atrocities were committed by one side only?

Yours faithfully,
G. SPANIER,
Bryn Myfyr, 549 Middle Road,
Ravenhill, Swansea SA5 5DH.
April 2.

From Mr John Preston

Sir, You report (March 30) that the BBC's *Nine O'clock News* has become the highest rated news programme since the start of the Nato bombing campaign. With such an obvious demand for information it beggars belief that they have chosen not to replace their scheduled programmes with more news, analysis and comment.

After a brief news flash at 8pm on Wednesday, March 24, to announce the start of the campaign, the viewer was forced to wait through *Changing Rooms* and *Holiday Reps Get Married* before receiving any further information. This came from a *Nine O'clock News* that was extended by a mere ten minutes.

The morning of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, saw all programmes on BBC1 replaced by blanket news coverage. The situation in Kosovo may not have the glamour or popular appeal of that event. It does, however, constitute the start of hostilities that have the potential to grow into the biggest conflict in Europe since the Second World War.

For those of us who do not enjoy access to BBC News 24, the BBC's meagre coverage represents a complete failure to fulfil its remit as the provider of a public service.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PRESTON,
20 L[illegible] Street, Hull HU5 2HZ.
April 1.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Dismay at school music changes

From Mr Peter Auker

Sir, I am Head of Music in what was until recently a grant-maintained (now "foundation status") mixed comprehensive school in Luton. The school is vastly oversubscribed, with an enviable reputation in sport and the arts, and for its academic excellence. It has recently been awarded Arts College status, to take effect from September.

Three years ago we decided to implement our own instrumental tuition service because the service provided by the local education authority (LEA) seemed to be poorly organised, poorly staffed, and poor value for money. The improvements have been remarkable: more children taking up instruments, improved staff loyalty, praise from Ofsted and a dramatic improvement in exam results.

I am dismayed that we have now been ordered by our LEA to return to their control, under new local management of schools regulations. Although we have been told we may initially keep our team of teachers, this move clearly takes away from the school much of its control over employment.

It is ironic that these regulations were brought in to safeguard music in schools. I see them as a severe threat to the service we have established and find it hard to believe that schools with demonstrably successful systems of their own are not to be allowed to retain control over them.

With all curriculum areas having to suffer a cut in funding of 40-50 per cent this year, the service to our pupils will inevitably suffer, as will staff morale. My colleagues and I are going to find it extremely difficult to resource a satisfactory service on this kind of money.

Yours faithfully,
PETER AUKER,
16 Torquay Drive,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 9LN.
peter_auker@hotmail.com
April 1.

Care of young offenders

From Mr Martin Nary, Director General of HM Prison Service

Sir, The Director of the Prison Reform Trust suggests (letter, March 31) that looking after young delinquents "should be no business of the Prison Service".

It is not so simple, even at Feltham Young Offender Institution. The Chief Inspector himself acknowledged that there are pockets of good practice. Only last week I was present when the Princess Royal presented Butler Trust awards in recognition of the outstanding work of prison officers in two units.

Elsewhere in establishments for under 18-year-olds significant progress is under way. The development of high quality, constructive regimes at Huntercombe, Thorn Cross and Werrington shows what can be achieved with carefully targeted investment. We are in the process of extending this approach to other establishments which will care for young people, in the new, distinct, under-18 establishments, using £51 million provided in the Comprehensive Spending Review. This will enable us to spread good practice consistently and transform standards across the board.

The aim is to ensure that all under 18-year-olds in our care should benefit from a regime which is focused on providing a full and purposeful day, maintaining a safe and secure environment and, crucially, is aimed at *preventing offending.*

If we can achieve that — and I believe we can — ministers and the Youth Justice Board will have no need to look for alternative providers of accommodation.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN NAREY,
Director General,
HM Prison Service,
Headquarters, Cleland House,
Page Street, SW1 4LN.
April 1.

Hollywood 'witch-hunt'

From Mr Nigel West

Sir, The explanation for Yevgeni Primakov's alleged failure to find any trace of Alger Hiss in the KGB files (letters, March 27, see also letter, March 23) may be because Hiss spied for a different organisation, the Soviet Military Intelligence Service (GRU).

That Hiss did so is beyond any doubt, based on an intercepted telegram from Washington DC to Moscow dated March 30, 1945, recently declassified and released in the *VENONA series, which confirms that* a spy in the State Department codenamed ALES had worked for the GRU "continuously since 1935", and had run a small network of agents "for the most part consisting of his relations".

The authenticity of the text, which was decrypted in full, has not been challenged, and there cannot be any question that ALES was Hiss, for in the same telegram he was reported to have attended the Yalta Conference and to have held a private meeting there with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Vyshinsky. Only Alger Hiss fitted this description and, contrary to John Lowenthal's view, hardly anyone now believes he was a victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Professor Ralston's assertion that the Un-American Activities Committee found only one Soviet collaborator is unsupported by the facts. The VENONA texts have also demonstrated overwhelmingly the guilt of Harry Dexter White (a fact now acknowledged by his former NKVD contact), Laurance Duggan, John Abt, etc.

Based on the VENONA material, which was unavailable to Joe McCarthy, and other evidence, it is far more difficult to name a single "innocent" victim of either the Hollywood blacklist or the so-called witch-hunt.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WEST,
96 Eaton Terrace, SW1W 8UG.
nigel@westintel.co.uk
March 27.

Teachers' pay

From Mr Hywel James

Sir, I believe Miss Gertrud Seidmann is wrong about pupils being the best judges of the performance of teachers (letter, April 1).

When I started teaching more than 30 years ago, there was a self-regarding individual in the staffroom who was worshipped by his pupils. He was popular with his classes because he flattered the children in them and played to the gallery, so to speak.

In fact his results were poor. The more discriminating boys eventually saw through his approach and opted for teachers who offered a regime which was more demanding but which laid the foundations for self-reliance, hard work and success in later life.

I became a member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools later and became convinced through classroom observation that popularity and rigour do not always go hand in hand in teaching.

Yours faithfully,
HYWEL JAMES,
Spencer House, Coleford,
Nr Crediton, Devon EX17 5DA.
April 1.

Visiting the BM

From Sir Simon Towneley

Sir, Jayne Dowle (article, April 1) refers to the "wrong kind of visitors" to the British Museum. All visitors surely must be welcome to the most comprehensive museum in the world.

Circulation has always been a problem for the BM. The Great Court scheme will help to solve it and I hope Jane Dowle has made her contribution.

Meanwhile I feel sure the Trustees would be interested to learn where she would site "the excellent temporary displays in more prominent areas within the building".

Your obedient servant,
SIMON TOWNELEY
(Trustee, 1988-93),
Dyneley, Burnley,
Lancashire BB11 3RE.
April 1.

Food labelling

From Mr Michael Walton

Sir, Professor Ian Shaw makes, I believe, an excellent suggestion (letter, March 30): that American meat containing growth hormones be displayed labelled with that information so that potential purchasers can make up their own minds. Surely this practical approach could be extended to the other products that are so exercising the minds of producers and consumers alike: for example, genetically modified foods, milk from bovine somatotrophin-enhanced herds and irradiated products. Rather than Nanny deciding for us, we can decide for ourselves. I suspect such market forces will determine the outcome, as Professor Shaw suggests.

I also wonder if this technique would provide a way around the draconian EU regulations that are sounding the death knell of small abattoirs, makers of speciality foods, etc. If the product is clearly labelled as not conforming to such-and-such an EU directive but satisfies the relevant British standard, is the consumer not entitled to make his choice?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WALTON,
Thriplow House,
Thriplow, Hertfordshire SG8 7RD.
March 31.

War crimes

From Mr Barry Baines

Sir, You report (April 2) that Britain's eight-year manhunt to track Nazi Second World War killers has cost more than £11 million. It has resulted in a frail old man being convicted of crimes committed in 1942. Whatever the gravity of the crimes, there comes a time when the door must be shut on the past. Would not the money have been better spent on the National Health Service caring for those who can still be helped?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY BAINES,
45 Preston Road,
Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PX.
barry.baines@btinternet.com
April 2.

Biography: an art of insights and lies

From Mr Laurence King

Sir, Michael Holroyd's observations on biography ("Parasites and peddlers", March 31) seem to me to be unduly masochistic, partly because he ignores one of the most valid and interesting types of biography, that of historical figures.

It appears that in his literary Utopia, these biographies and those of the recently dead would not be written at all. But how can we understand the history of a period without having some idea of the choices confronting the people who shaped it, seen from their own point of view? History would be incomparably poorer without the insights derived from these biographies.

I would defend, too, the biographies of contemporary sporting heroes and members of the Royal Family. The prurient interest in these figures is created partly because readers see the issues that they face in their own lives fought out on a "mythic" level in these popular biographies. However undesirable it is, new systems of morality are shaped by the accounts of the lives of famous personalities printed in newspapers and books.

Oddly, biographies of writers and artists seem to be the most questionable, as the point of their lives is very seldom the lives themselves and almost always the work they produce, which can be devalued by an overly biographical interpretation.

In the end, Michael Holroyd's invective is, I feel, directed at the motivation of biographers. Given his audience (the article being an extract from a talk to the Biographers' Club) this must surely have been largely humorous.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE KING,
Laurence King Publishing,
71 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3BN.
April 1.

From Mr Roland Hill

Sir, Michael Holroyd's hit against biographers should also include Sigmund Freud, who said what seems to me the last word on the subject. According to Paul Roazen's *Freud and his Followers* (1971) Freud responded negatively to Arnold Zweig, who had proposed writing his biography:

> Anyone turning biographer commits himself to lies, to concealment, to hypocrisy, to flattery, and even to hiding his own lack of understanding, for biographical truth is not to be had, and even if it were it couldn't be used.

I am writing as a humble practitioner of the craft.

Yours sadly,
ROLAND HILL,
2 Arundel Court,
Raymond Road, SW19 4AF.
March 31.

Signs of the times

From Mr Stephen Walker

Sir, A sign on a table in a local furniture shop states: "This item is not currently available due to its desirability".

Whatever happened to "sold out"?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WALKER,
223 Hartington Road,
Brighton, East Sussex BN2 3PA.
April 2.

Wedding gifts

From Mrs Alison Musker

Sir, As a wedding present I gave Georgian silver grape-scissors to a schoolfriend (letters, March 18, 24, 30 and April 2).

She wrote back thanking me for the "beautiful candle snuffers".

Yours faithfully,
ALISON MUSKER,
8 Farley Court, Farley Hill,
Reading, Berkshire RG7 1TT.
April 2.

From Mr Henry Button

Sir, Mr John Cockram tells us (letter, March 24) that he has for years given a silver butter knife as a wedding present. He may have had in mind the old definition of a gentleman as someone who always used a butter knife even if he was dining by himself.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BUTTON,
17 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9BH.
March 25.

From Mr Peter Hudson

Sir, As the knife was given as a wedding present, it should have been obvious it was intended "for butter or worse".

Yours faithfully,
PETER HUDSON,
Windrush, Walcot Road, Ufford,
Nr Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3BP.
April 1.

From Mrs Elizabeth Bridger

Sir, The most original wedding gift we received was from a saintly retired clergyman. It was a little booklet, entitled *Words of Comfort*.

Yours truly,
ELIZABETH BRIDGER,
The Elms, 4 Common Lane,
Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8PL.
April 2.

SOCIAL NEWS

Forthcoming royal engagements

April 7: the Duke of York will launch the Royal News Magazine on the Internet, at Cafe Internet, 22/24 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1.

April 12-15: the Duke of Gloucester will carry out engagements in Poland.

April 14: the Duke of Kent, patron, Stroke Association, will attend the association's centenary year international scientific conference, Royal College of Physicians, London, at 4pm.

Birthdays today

Professor John Albery, FRS, former Master, University College, Oxford, 63; Miss Jane Asher, actress and writer, 53; Mr Michael Bryant, actor, 71; Mr James Buckley, chief executive, Baltic Exchange, 55; Mr Andrew Buxton, chairman, Barclays Bank, 60; Baroness Delacourt-Smith of Alteryn, 83; Sir Thomas Finney, former footballer, 77; Lord Gilbert, 72; Mr Arthur Hailey, author, 79; Sir Nigel Hawthorne, actor, 70; Sir Douglas Henley, former Auditor-General, 80; Professor Denis Lawton, former director, London University Institute of Education, 68; Admiral Sir Michael Livesay, 63; Professor Donald Lynden-Bell, FRS, astronomer, 64; Mr Robert E. McKee, former chairman and managing director, Conoco (UK), 53; Mr Stuart May, former senior partner, Theodore Goddard, 62; Professor Peter Moore, former Principal, London Business School, 71; Lord Orme, 76; Mr Gregory Peck, actor, 83; Miss Jennifer Penney, former ballerina, 53; General Colin Powell, KCB, former Chairman, American Joint Chiefs of Staff, 62; Lord Rockley, 65.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, 1588; Jean Honoré Fragonard, painter, Grasse, France, 1732; Sir Henry Havelock, general, relieved Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny, Sunderland, 1795; Joseph Lister, Baron Lister, surgeon and founder of antiseptic medicine, Upton, Essex, 1827; Algernon Swinburne, poet and critic, London, 1837; Spencer Tracy, actor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1900; Herbert von Karajan, conductor, Salzburg, 1908.

DEATHS: William Brouncker, 2nd Viscount Brouncker, mathematician, first President of the Royal Society 1662-77, London, 1684; Georges-Jacques Danton, French Revolution leader, executed, Paris, 1794; Robert Raikes, pioneer of Sunday schools, Gloucester, 1811; George Edward Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, archaeologist, Cairo, 1923; Douglas MacArthur, American Army general, Washington, 1964; Chiang Kai-shek, head of the National Government in China 1928-49, Taiwan, 1975; Howard Hughes, manufacturer, aviator and film producer, on flight to Houston, Texas, 1976; Sir Arthur Harris, Marshal of the RAF, Goring, Oxfordshire, 1984.

Johann Strauss's opera *Die Fledermaus* was first performed in Vienna, 1874.

The trial of Oscar Wilde began at the Old Bailey for offences arising from his friendship with Lord Alfred Douglas, 1895.

Winston Churchill resigned as Prime Minister, 1955.

The British Task Force sailed from Southampton for the Falkland Islands after the invasion by Argentina, 1982.



PAUL COUSANS

High and mighty: the overarching dome of Devonshire Royal Hospital. The Health Secretary has decided that the building is no longer suitable for use as a modern hospital.

Government puts dome up for sale

An architectural wonder in the spa town of Buxton could go to the right buyer for as little as £1, reports Russell Jenkins

"FOR SALE" signs have gone up outside the historic Devonshire Royal Hospital in Buxton which boasts what is believed to be the largest unsupported dome in Europe.

In the last century the Victorians flocked to the spa town to marvel at the cavernous central feature which they cherished as an architectural wonder, wider and deeper than the Duomo in Florence and St Peter's in Rome. Nowadays, the visitor steps into an extraordinary space — part aircraft hangar, part cathedral — where steel struts, resting on an 18th-century colonnade, vault upwards towards a smaller glass cupola.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, has decided that the building, which has been home to the Devonshire Royal since 1934, is unsuitable for use as a modern hospital and has offered it for sale.

Heritage groups have expressed alarm that the dome may go the same way as the Crescent, built by the 5th Duke of Devonshire, which has remained empty and shrouded in security fencing for a decade.

Breeze blocks cover windows. The forlorn fate of the elegant apartments, where aristocrats once took the warm spring waters, has upset conservation groups who say that Buxton, long known as the "Bath of the North", could be damaged irrevocably if the dome is allowed to fall into disrepair.

However, King Sturge, the Manchester-based chartered surveyor handling the sale, is optimistic that it will be able to find a suitable buyer to give the dome a new lease of life whether as a college, a conference centre, hotel, houses or mixed development. Substantial grants from English Heritage would be available to the right buyer, who might pay as little as £1.

Derby University has already expressed an interest in turning the dome into a modern library to give the North a building to match the Reading Room of the British Library. Mike Bryant, superintendent physiotherapist and the hospital's unofficial historian, said: "We only claim it is the largest dome in Europe — one of the biggest in the world — but, there again, you don't get many with slates on the outside.

"As part of our heritage, it is important that people have access to the inside and only an institution which has a fairly open activity, such as a college, could accommodate that. The danger is the dome could degenerate very quickly if left empty because there is quite an expanse of flat roof around the dome. This is not conducive to Buxton weather."

Visitors to the hospital are immediately impressed by the sheer scale of the architect's vision. The daily life of a specialist hospital, meanwhile, carries on regardless along the corridors and wards emanating from the dome like spokes in a wheel.

It was originally built in 1789 as the Duke of Devonshire's "Great Stables" by the architect John Carr. The surviving 44 stone columns trace the path where the wealthy and influential used to exercise their horses in the open air.

In the 1850s the then Duke of Devonshire offered part of the building to the Buxton Spa charity to establish a hospital where the sick poor could take the healing mineral waters. In 1876 the charity's trustees acquired the rest with money from the Cotton Districts Convalescent fund.

They decided to cover the huge circular space with a slate dome. The architect Robert Duke devised a steel structure resting on the original colonnade. Ominously, he began expressing concern about its safety after the Tay Bridge disaster. At 154ft across, it is 6ft wider than the Duomo, 14ft wider than the British Museum Reading Room and 16ft wider than St Peter's, in Rome.

It will chiefly be remembered as a specialist hospital which pioneered hydrotherapy treatment. Physicians have come to rely less on the healing properties of the spa mineral water. Early photographs show emaciated patients in whirlpool baths, lying in shallow copper baths or enclosed in steam cabinets.

Latest wills

Lord Alport, of Layer-de-la-Haye, Colchester, left estate valued at £379,365 net.

He left £500 to St John the Baptist Church, Layer-de-la-Haye, and £500 to the Village Produce Association, Layer-de-la-Haye.

Mr Oleg Prokofiev, sculptor and painter, and son of the composer, Serge Prokofiev, of London SE3, left estate valued at £4,350,318 net.

John Barrie Thorndyke, of Skeffington, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £2,213,168 net.

Thomas Patrick O'Sullivan, of Beckenham, Kent, left estate valued at £1,860,641 net.

Vyvyan Bernard Wells, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,102,466 net.

He left £20,000 to the MacIntyre Charitable Trust; £5,000 each to the RNIB, and Cancer Research Campaign; £4,000 to the RSPCA; and £3,000 to the RNLI.

Michael Edward Wylie Samuelson, of London W8, left estate valued at £1,769,355 net.

Maurice James Frederick Saxton, of Bramshott, Liphook, Hampshire, left estate valued at £995,982 net.

Ella Knight Smith, of Burgess Hill, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,150,568 net.

Sylvia Ury, of London NW3, left estate valued at £1,268,980 net.

She left £500 to the Association of Jewish Refugees and to the Jewish National Fund.

Hubert Park Walker, of London SW20, left estate valued at £1,669,509 net.

He left £5,000 each to Trinity United Reformed Church, Wimbledon, The Old Rutlishians' Association, London SW19, National Free Church Women's Council of London, SW19, Battersea Home for Dogs, and the Salvation Army; and £4,000 each to the International League for Protection of Horses, Donkey Sanctuary, and PDSA.

Joan Kathleen Whittaker, of Cirencester, Gloucester, left estate valued at £1,186,213 net.

Denis Gordon Woodward, of Norbury, Whitchurch, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,500,290 net.

Mr Leopold Geddy, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £2,283,560 net.

He left £12,000 to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Mr Thomas Edward Sydney Egerton, of Newbury, Berkshire, left estate valued at £6,730,338 net.

Nature notes

Birds are beginning to build their nests early this spring. Moorhens are swimming across ponds trailing reed by their side; blackbirds are pulling up dry grass by the roots; starlings are flying in and out of holes with beaks full of feathers; even chaffinches, normally quite late breeders, are constructing their mossy nests in the forks of fruit trees. More summer visitors are arriving: many blackcaps have come in from the Mediterranean this weekend and are singing vigorously in the treetops, and the first swallows are feeding over lakes and rivers. Lesser black-backed gulls, moving up to northern coasts, are turning up in parks and on farmland. The spring wild flowers are also opening early. There are white colonies of greater stitchwort, with its cleft petals, on roadside banks. The first bluebells are out in woods, with many more still to unfold; they are often surrounded by a carpet of wood anemones. Blackthorn hedges are foaming masses of white blossom, though many of the flowers are already fading and falling. The flowers are open on the wild cherries; where they grow at the edge of a wood of tall trees, they look like a white waterfall on the wood's flank.

The blackcap

DJM

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Richard Awre, Vicar, Longridge (Blackburn): to be Vicar, Kenilworth St Nicholas (Coventry).

The Rev Brendan Bailey, Curate, Purley St Mary the Virgin (Oxford): to be Rector, Nettlebed w Bix and Highmoor (same diocese).

The Rev Allan Brownridge, Rector, Boyton, North Tamerton, Werrington w St Giles-in-the-Heath, and Virginstow, and Rural Dean of Trigg Major (Truro): has been appointed Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral.

The Rev Roy Burch, Vicar, Kinwarton w Great Alne and Haselor (Coventry): has been appointed Rural Dean of Alcester (same diocese).

The Rev Dr Judith Bryan, Assistant Curate, Wolverhampton St Matthew (Lichfield): to be Chaplain, University of Hull (York).

Canon Neil Collings, Rector, Harpenden St Nicholas, and Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral: to be Residentiary Canon of Exeter Cathedral.

The Rev Ronald Crankshaw, Vicar, Wigan St Anne, and Area Dean of Wigan West (Liverpool): to be Vicar, Heston St Leonard (London).

The Rev Timothy Davis, Curate, Flaherton Anger (Salisbury): to be Team Vicar, Abingdon Christ Church (Oxford).

The Rev Dr Ian Farley, Vicar, South Lambeth St Stephen (Southwark): to be Vicar, Bacton w Edingthorpe w Witton and Ridlington, and Industrial Chaplain, Bacton Gas Terminal (Norwich).

Retirements and resignations

The Very Rev Peter Berry, Rector and Provost, St Philip's Cathedral (Birmingham) retired April 30.

The Rev John Druce, Rector, East Bergholt, and Priest-in-Charge, Bentley w Tattingstone (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) retired April 30.

The Rev John Harper, Vicar, South Brent and Rattery (Exeter) to retire June 30.

The Rev George Southey, Vicar, Scarborough St Columba (York) to retire June 30.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. Durham and Miss H.R.A. Gaywood

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs John Durham, of the British Embassy, Ulaanbaatar, and Harriet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Gaywood, of Kippen, Stirlingshire.

Mr J.W. Handley and Dr A.K. Newhouse

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr W.R.C. Handley, of Bethnal Green, London, and Mrs M.C.D. Kent, of Isleworth, Middlesex, and Anna, elder daughter of Dr R.G. Newhouse, of St Dominic, Cornwall, and Mrs J.A. Newhouse, of Plymouth, Devon.

University news

Oxford

The Brian Johnson Prize in Pathology for 1998 has been awarded to James W. Dear, Brasenose College; *proxime accesserunt* Houman Ashrafian, St John's College, and Ferdia A. Gallagher, New College.

Cambridge

Queens' College

Beverley Jane Glover, BSc (St Andrews), PhD (John Innes Centre, University of East Anglia) currently a Research Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, has been elected to an Official Fellowship and College Lectureship in Plant Molecular Genetics at the college.

St Edmund's College

The following have been elected into Fellowship:

Honorary Fellowship: Bridget M Ogilvie, DBE, ScD.

Fellowships from April 1:

In Class C: Edwin Roy Chilvers, Professor of Respiratory Medicine.

In Class D: E M Katharina Brett, Commissioning Editor, Cambridge University Press; Christopher Graham Rapley, director, British Antarctic Survey; Bruce William Winter, Warden, Tyndale House.

Re-appointed for five years from September 1, 1999:

Director of finance and administration: Moira Gardiner, Corpus Christi.

London

The following have been awarded honorary degrees:

The Sultan of Perak, LLD; Mrs Doris Lessing, author, DLit; Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Professor of Physics, Open University, DSc; Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, DSc (Econ); Professor Richard Peto, FRS, Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, Oxford University, graduate of the university, DSc (Med); Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord of Appeal, graduate of the university, LLD; Professor Sir William Taylor, DLit (Ed).

Manchester

The following appointments have been made:

Pro Vice-Chancellor: Professor Howard Barringer, re-appointed for two years from September 1.

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing: David Gordon, at present director of special initiatives at the Wellcome Trust, from September, with the title of Professor of Medicine for so long as he shall continue to hold appointment as Dean.

Appointments to Chairs

Promotional Chair of Linguistics: William Croft, Reader in Linguistics, as Professor of Linguistics.

Promotional Chair of Applied Mathematics: Peter William Duck, Reader in Mathematics, as Professor of Applied Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics.

Ulster

The following promotions have been made:

Dr Noel Hyndman, Reader in Accounting in the School of Management, has been appointed Professor of Management Accounting.

Professor A. Marshall McCabe, Reader in the School of Environmental Studies, has been appointed Professor of Quaternary Science.

Mrs Terri Scott, Head of School of Computing and Mathematics, has been appointed Professor of Informatics and Technology Transfer.

Dr W Franklin Smyth, Senior Lecturer in the School of Applied Biological and Chemical Sciences, has been promoted to a Professor in Bio-Analytical Chemistry.

Dr David J. Sturdy, Senior Lecturer in the School of History, Philosophy and Politics, has been appointed Professor of Early Modern History.

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And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." Luke 24.33-34 (AV).

BIRTHS

GREGORY - On 1st April, to Susan, Adrian and Charlotte, a son, Kristian Alexander Stuart.

McBAIN - On 30th March to Alison (nee Mackay) and Allan a boy, Euan, brother to Calum, both well.

DEATHS

BACH - Stephen Craine Goulden CBE, OBE (Mil). Younger son of the late Doctor M J and Mrs Ada Bach at Greengates, Oxford on 2nd April aged 88. Much loved father and stepfather of William, Belinda and James, devoted husband of the late Joan Bach and of Gaynor, cherished by his grandchildren. Cremation at Oxford Crematorium at 12.45 on Friday 9th April.

DURNIN - John Charles (Jack) formerly of Richmond, Surrey, peacefully and unexpectedly on 30th March 1999, aged 81 years. Beloved husband of the late Jerry, also a much loved father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St. James Church, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire on Monday 12th April at 3.00 pm. Enquiries tel. 01386 765133.

FISHER - Phyllis, widow of John and much loved mother of Angela and Charles, died peacefully in West Wittering on 29th March 1999. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. At her request a private funeral service will take place at Chichester Crematorium.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HADEN - William Demmery, husband of the late Elizabeth Marjorie, and former Headmaster of the Mercers' School and the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, died peacefully at Chalfont Lodge Nursing Home on 2nd April 1999. Funeral at the parish church of St Mary Magdelene, Mitford, Northumberland at 2.30pm Wednesday April 14th.

JACKSON - At Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy on Wednesday March 31st 1999, Grace Edith Martin (Sister Martin) Woodside Crescent, Elie, Fife. Beloved wife of David and much loved sister of John and Hal, dearly loved stepmother of Mary, David and Robert. Funeral Service in St Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Elie on Wednesday April 7th at 11.30 am. Interment thereafter in Kilconquhar Cemetery approximately 12.15. Flowers to D. Garland & Son, Funeral Directors, Neuk, Elie.

LIVENS - On April 1, 1999, after a long illness, Robin George, very dear husband of Margaret, devoted father of Francis and Roger and father-in-law of clare, much loved brother of Ursula. Funeral at St Thomas Moore Church, Wollaton, Nottingham on Thursday April 8 at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Bramcote. Family flowers only please. Donation, if wished, for Action Aid maybe sent to A.W. Lymn, Trent House, 106, Station Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2AY.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BELL - On April 5th 1911, suddenly at Printing House Square, E.C., Charles Frederick Moberley Bell, Managing Director of The Times, of 22 Park Crescent, Portland Place, W., aged 64.

VYVYAN - (Crown) Jennifer Beloved.

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LEGAL NOTICES

(COMPANIES ACT 1985, s.175)
LEXA UK LIMITED
(Registered in England No. 3057386)

NOTICE is hereby given that:-

1. By a Special Resolution of the shareholders of the above-named Company approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders held on 30 March 1999 the payment out of capital of £1,000,000 for the purpose of the Company acquiring 500,000 A Ordinary Shares of £1 each and 500,000 B Ordinary shares of £1 each from Lexa International Corporation was authorised.

2. The amount of the permissible capital repayment as defined by Sections, 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was £1,000,000

3. The statutory declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by Section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company situated at 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA

4. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the period of 5 weeks immediately following 30 March 1999 (being the date of the above mentioned Special Resolution) apply to the High Court under Section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment.

Lawrence Jones Solicitors
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London SE1 9LH



LIONEL BART

Lionel Bart, composer and songwriter, died of cancer on April 3 aged 68. He was born on August 1, 1930.

When the film of *Oliver!* won five Oscars and the album won a gold disc, Lionel Bart was a regular subject in the gossip columns, living it up in Fulham, knocking around with the Beatles and the Stones, and dating Judy Garland and Alma Cogan (who proposed to him on television on Leap Year's Day). But though he bought houses in Tangiers, New York and Malibu, the East End boy was unable to sustain his success or to survive the temptations of the Swinging Sixties. Always something of an innocent, he descended into alcoholism and drug-abuse, going bankrupt in 1972.

Yet in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Lionel Bart was the right man in the right place. Just as Osborne, Arden and Wesker overhauled the English theatre, Bart brought the energy of rock to the musical stage, and set rolling the block-buster bandwagon that Tim Rice, Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Cameron Mackintosh were all to board. In Bart's early shows, he broke away from the convention of threading a series of arbitrary situations onto a musical string, and instead wrote catchy music to serve the purposes of proper storytelling and drama.

He was born Lionel Begleiter, the son of a Jewish tailor. He did his National Service in the RAF and studied at St Martin's School of Art. His first work in the theatre was as a scene-painter. In the meantime he had dropped his unwieldy name (adopting that of his local hospital), and become involved in a skiffle band in Soho. He helped Britain's original pop idol, Tommy Steele, into the Top Ten with his first record, *Rock with the Cavemen* in 1956, and then worked on the stage show *The Tommy Steele Story*, which won an Ivor Novello Award. Bart was to write several other hits, including chart-toppers for Cliff Richard (*Living Doll*, 1959) and for Anthony Newley (*Do You Mind*, 1960).

In 1959 he wrote the songs for *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be*, Frank Norman's cheerful piece about small-time Soho crime and criminals, which was produced by Theatre Workshop at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, and went on to be one of the company's great West End successes, running for more than two years at the Garrick Theatre. In it Bart contrived one song, the words of which enshrine the title of the show, which for all its faults refuses to be dislodged from the memory.

In the same year he wrote the music for *Lock Up Your Daughters*, Bernard Miles's adaptation of Fielding's *Rape Upon Rape*, with which the new Mermaid Theatre opened at Puddle Dock. But it was *Oliver!* in 1960 that proved Bart's greatest and most enduring success, though he later claimed that half of it was written during rehearsals. The show was full of hit songs which were quirky, good-natured and hummable, including *Food, Glorious Food*, *Oom-Pah-Pah*, *I'd Do Anything*, *You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two* and *Consider Yourself (One of Us)*.

This was Dickens diluted, but Bart unadulterated: he was responsible not only for music and the lyrics of the songs, but for the whole text. Though its point of departure was *Oliver Twist* and the libretto necessarily includes all the famous Dickensian *dicta*, the story in Bart's hands became a sunnily optimistic comic melodrama, stripped of all the terrors and evil of the original. Ron Moody's Fagin was more of a fatherly figure than a ruthless crook. In 1966 *Oliver!* became the longest-running musical in the history of the London stage. The film, which also featured Oliver Reed, Harry Secombe, Leonard Rossiter and Megs Jenkins, appeared in 1968, and the stage show was revived in 1967, 1971 and 1994.



Lionel Bart (left) in his heyday, around the time of the filming of *Oliver!*, with Peggy Mount as the Widow Corney, Mark Lester as Oliver Twist and Harry Secombe as Mr Bumble

As Bart saw it, the musical was a step towards popular-style folk opera. His next, *Blitz*, in 1962, was a spectacular work in which the story and its varied situations, like the rather grandiose music, attempted to recreate the stoicism, uncomplaining courage and unconquerable good humour with which, British audiences like to be told, Londoners endured aerial bombardment.

Maggie May in 1964 saw Bart collaborating with the dramatist Alun Owen to tell the story of the archetypal Liverpool dockside prostitute in a new light. Told in Liverpool street song, her adventures were cruelly unsentimental, but Owen's story of her early love affair with a martyred political idealist was apparently meant to explain the heartlessness of her later behaviour. *Maggie May* demanded that Bart worked on an even larger scale than he had for *Blitz*, with extended dances, choruses and a large orchestra. It also demanded extended musical sections in which music had to cope not only with Bart's skilful easygoing lyrics, but with naturalistic dialogue. These were challenges to which his unstrenuous gifts for catchy and neatly rhythmical tunes were hardly equal.

Blitz and *Maggie May* were not resounding successes, and the genesis of *Twang!!* in 1965 was so stormy as to prevent it ever catching fire. The story was based on the legendary exploits of Robin Hood, but *Twang!!* became a battleground, fought over throughout a provincial tour by its author-composer and its didactic and awkward director, Joan Littlewood. The dialogue, scenes and order of events seemed to change night by night, and at the London opening their purposes remained crossed, intentions were never less than contradictory and success was impossible. Even the charms of Barbara Windsor as Maid Marian could not endear the show to the critics. Still worse was to follow in 1969 in New York, when Bart's *La Strada*, based on a Fellini film, closed after one night.

During the 1970s Bart's drinking became a problem — he was twice convicted of driving while intoxicated — and his health suffered. He later became teetotal, but despite talk of endless new projects, he had lost confidence. He sold the rights to *Oliver!* for a few thousand pounds. With his memories in a trunk and ideas never quite coming to fruition, he lived quietly in Acton, where he was sometimes mistaken for Bob Hoskins.

Like several other composers in the world of popular music, Bart was a self-taught musician and virtually a one-finger pianist: his work was dictated to others, who orchestrated it in collaboration with him and who naturally influenced its harmonies. Critics who derided his palpable derivativeness were missing the point. Echoes of Victorian ballads, of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, of music-hall songs and of other musicals simply meant that Bart was working within a definite if debased popular tradition. What he wrote grew out of the musical world in which he grew up, and it provided him with the essential musical expression of the characters with whom he was concerned: small-time crooks from sleazy Soho joints, whose criminality is more comic than anti-social, a Fagin, Bumble and Nancy who were quaint rather than evil, a prostitute who became heartless only because her broken heart would not heal.

Within the derivative, sentimental, mid-Atlantic tradition which came naturally to him, Bart worked not only sincerely but with great conscientiousness. Though his reach exceeded his grasp, he knew exactly what he wanted and where he intended to go; what he lacked was the technical equipment and the necessary discipline. But *Oliver!* has a permanent place in the stage repertoire.

He never married.

JESSE STONE

Jesse Stone, rhythm and blues pioneer, died in Altamonte Springs, Florida, on April 1 aged 97. He was born in Atchison, Kansas on November 16, 1901.

WHEN rock 'n' roll was in its infancy, Jesse Stone was already in his fifties, with a career that was virtually synonymous with the development of black American music during the first half of the century. He then used his experience of half a lifetime spent playing jazz, swing and rhythm and blues to become one of the seminal figures in the birth of rock 'n' roll.

Although in his own right Stone never became a household name, he played a pivotal role as an arranger, producer and writer at Atlantic Records in the 1950s, working on many of the records which were to shape popular music.

Among his own compositions were *Idaho* for Benny Goodman and *Money Honey* for the Drifters. He also arranged Big Joe Turner's *Shake, Rattle and Roll*, a song which became the second rock'n'roll hit for Bill Haley and the Comets, as the follow-up to *Rock Around the Clock* in 1954.



Jesse Stone with his wife Evelyn McGee Stone in 1996

The grandson of Tennessee slaves, Stone was born in rural Kansas and began in showbusiness before the First World War, touring with his family's minstrel show. By the 1920s he was living in Kansas City, which then rivalled New Orleans as a jazz centre, thanks to its City Hall's tolerant attitude to late-night drinking and gambling joints.

As a pianist Stone led his own "territory band", which at different times included the jazz saxophonist Coleman Hawkins and the likes of Budd Johnson and Alton Moore. Yet Stone seemed to have a finger in every musical pie. He discovered the country blues singer J. D. Short in St Louis in the 1920s, and went on to become musical director of other Kansas City bands, including those led by Terrence Holder, George E. Lee and Thamon Hayes.

He returned to leading his own band in the mid-Thirties and in 1936 Duke Ellington secured him a booking at New York's Cotton Club. He also worked at the city's equally famous Apollo Theatre, not only arranging, composing and directing from the bandstand, but writing sketches and jokes for some of the comic turns.

In 1942 his composition *Idaho* was covered by Benny Goodman, and it went on to be a jazz standard, recorded also by Jimmy Dorsey and Guy Lombardo, whose version sold three million copies. At the same time Stone also became musical director of the International Sweethearts of Rhythm, a group of Mississippi orphans who became a highly successful all-female jazz band that toured Europe playing to American servicemen.

When Ahmet Ertegun established Atlantic Records in 1947, he took on Stone as his right-hand man, and the label swiftly became the leader in authentic black rhythm and blues.

Often writing under the name of Charles Colhoun, Stone worked with many artists, including Ray Charles on *It Should Have Been Me*. Many years later, on the occasion of Stone's 95th birthday, Ertegun described his role: "You wrote the tunes and the arrangements; you assembled the players; you ran the rehearsals; you conducted in the studio."

Stone also put together a remarkable in-house vocal harmony group called the Cues, who sang with everyone from Ruth Brown to Nat King Cole, and in 1953 he co-wrote *Soul on Fire* for LaVern Baker, the first record produced by Jerry Wexler. A few weeks later Wexler went back into the studio with Clyde McPhatter and the Drifters to record Stone's *Money Honey*.

The following year Stone helped Big Joe Turner, whose repertoire had previously consisted mostly of blues ballads, to record *Shake, Rattle and Roll*. The song was covered by Bill Haley and Elvis Presley, and popular music was never the same again.

Stone continued working with Wexler, on records such as the Clovers' *Your Cash Ain't Nothin But Trash* and Chuck Willis's *C. C. Rider*. Later, as the music scene changed in the 1960s, he branched out into management.

In the period when Stone was at his most productive, popular music was regarded as ephemeral and its exponents to be mere shooting-stars. The backroom staff attracted little interest outside the music industry. But by the 1970s artists such as Ry Cooder had revived interest in the work of the early rhythm and blues pioneers, and Stone was recognised as one of the men who had shaped modern urban black music. Ertegun, again, was quick to pay generous tribute, saying that Stone had done "more to develop the basic rock 'n' roll sound than anybody else".

Stone retired in the early 1980s and moved to Orlando, Florida. Yet he continued to work sporadically, and accompanied his wife, the singer Evelyn McGee Stone, on her recent album *Jump Back*. She survives him, and has said that when he was admitted to hospital on March 27, he was writing a new song, entitled *That's It*.

ANDREW GARDNER

Andrew Gardner, newscaster, died of a heart attack on April 2 aged 66. He was born on September 25, 1932.

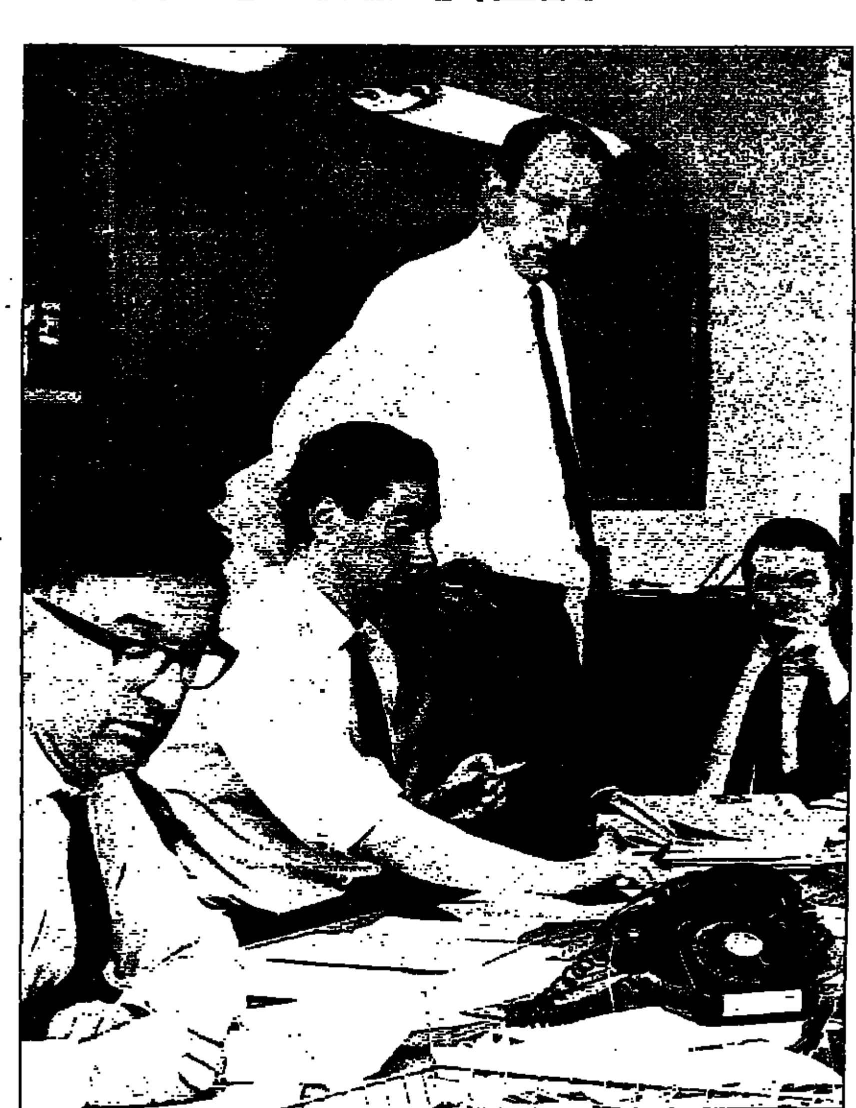
ANDREW GARDNER was the presenter of *News at Ten* with Alastair Burnet when it went on air from an attic studio in Kingsway for the first time on July 3, 1967. It was Britain's first half-hour news programme in prime time on a mass-audience channel, and that night's news included items about a train strike averted, fighting on the Suez Canal and Roger Taylor reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals. That original improvised studio was often so hot that Gardner and Burnet took their socks off beneath the desk as they addressed the nation.

Gardner's appointment was a shrewd one by the then Editor of ITN, Geoffrey Cox. A big man in every sense, Gardner stood 6ft 6in tall and possessed a classless yet unmistakably English voice which was ideally suited to ITN's style of journalism: it had dignity and gravitas, yet was distinctly different from the standard BBC voice of the period.

For most of the 1970s, he and Reginald Bosanquet were the most readily recognised faces of ITN News, as Sir Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall were to be in the 1980s. Though the two men could not have been more different in personality, Gardner and Bosanquet had a close relationship, and Gardner readily admitted that they were "the Morecambe and Wise of current affairs" — with himself as the straight man. Their good-humoured relationship helped to keep events in perspective amid the regular panics of nightly news broadcasting, and after Bosanquet's death Gardner defended his old colleague against the colourful stories about him that surfaced from time to time in gossip columns, some of which were baseless.

Andrew Gardner was educated at Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, Devizes, and did his National Service in the RAF. He joined ITN in 1961, having worked in Rhodesian broadcasting since 1957 and subsequently at the BBC. He was already an established newscaster when *News at Ten* started, having worked on ITN's *Roving Report* and *Dateline*.

In the ITN tradition, Gardner worked occasionally as a reporter in the field, covering, for instance, the Great Train Robbery in August 1963. Production teams admired him, because he was easy to work with and always cool at moments of crisis. In the studio he was the epitome of a sound anchor, yet when he took part in tests it was found that his heart rate rose from the usual 73 to around 110 beats a minute.



Andrew Gardner, standing, in the old ITN newsroom in Kingsway, with (right to left) David Nicholas, Alastair Burnet and George Fitch

For the best part of 20 years, he was a member of ITN's election night team, dealing with the constituency results as they poured in at the rate of seven a minute in the small hours. He had an impish sense of humour but was dogged when he argued his cause, and successive editors valued his judgment on issues of taste and decency.

He left ITN in 1977, moving to Thames as a presenter. He retired in 1992. He also was an accomplished and witty after-dinner speaker.

In recent weeks he had had many meetings with old ITN colleagues as *News at Ten* came to an end, and he gave a number of interviews recalling the early days. He specifically asked to be in the control room for the last transmission on March 5, telling friends that as he had been there on the programme's first night, he wanted to be in on the last.

He had suffered for years from back trouble and shortly before his sudden death had undergone major surgery on his spine and knee.

He met his wife Margaret while working in Africa, and they were married in 1958. She survives him, along with their four sons.

ON THIS DAY

April 5, 1934

Sixty-five years ago, a dancer died after taking an overdose of a drug in order to reduce her weight; a few months later the Pharmaceutical Society, prompted by the Home Secretary, took action to prevent it from being on general sale.

DRUGS USED FOR SLIMMING

REFERENCE was made at the monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society, held at its Bloomsbury Square headquarters yesterday, to the recent case in which a girl dancer was found to have died through an overdose of drugs taken for slimming purposes.

A letter had been received from the Home Office, stating that the Home Secretary was of the opinion that if, as he was informed, drugs of the nitrophenol group were highly poisonous, they should be placed under the utmost restriction possible pending the coming into force of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933. The letter inquired whether the council of the Pharmaceutical Society was prepared to initiate the steps necessary to add to Part I of the Poison Schedule such nitrophenols and preparations containing them as were likely to be retailed to the public.

During the discussion Mr Beardsley had pointed out that the chemist from whom the tablets had been purchased had told the purchaser that she would be well advised to take them only under doctor's orders, and that the Coroner, at the inquest, had made it clear that the chemist had taken all reasonable precautions.

On the proposal of the Vice-President (Mr S. Peck), seconded by Mr. Hardy, a resolution to add these substances to Part I of the Schedule of Poisons was passed as follows: That by virtue and in exercise of the powers vested in the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the said council doth hereby resolve and declare that the Schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, ought to be amended by the addition to Part I of the following words: Dinitrophenols, dinitrocresols, preparations or admixtures containing dinitrophenols: preparations or admixtures containing dinitrocresols; and that a copy of this resolution be sealed with the corporate seal of the council.

It was stated that the resolution would be sent to the Privy Council for consideration and approval.

At an inquest at Paddington last month on a young woman cabaret artist, who died through an overdose of a drug which she had taken to reduce her weight, it was stated by a witness on behalf of the makers of the drug that in September, 1933, his company suggested that this preparation should be placed on the Poisons List so that it could not be bought except as a result of medical prescription. The company had no reply to the first letter, the witness said, and a second was sent and the reply received was that the matter was having consideration.

On March 22 the Home Secretary stated in the House of Commons that the Poisons Board, set up under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act of last year, was considering the restrictions to be applied to that and other poisons. He was also in consultation with the Lord President of the Council and the Pharmaceutical Society, the responsible authorities until the new Act comes into force, with a view to its being scheduled as a poison at the earliest possible date, and he was taking up the matter with the manufacturers with a view to the adoption of further precautions.

MAJOR BASIL WATTS

Major Basil Watts, MC, wartime light infantryman, died on February 26 aged 78. He was born on January 29, 1921.

WITH the Second World War in Europe in its terminal phase, Basil Watts won his Military Cross for overcoming German last-ditch resistance in the ruins of Bremen at the end of April 1945. It must be accounted truly astonishing that after having been assailed and ground down by a numerically and materially superior enemy ever since June 6, 1944, the Germans were, by that stage, still capable of mounting any worthwhile resistance.

Yet the fact was that when Watts and C Company 4th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry closed in on an important road junction in what was left of the western suburbs of Bremen on the evening of April 27, 1945, they found that their path was most stoutly and stubbornly barred by a dedicated band of mostly teen-aged defenders. These youthful zealots had already repulsed the attacks of one British infantry battalion, and it took stern measures from Watts and his men to overcome their resistance.

Advancing behind flame-throwers, C Company ruthlessly cleared strongpoint after strongpoint. On one occasion when fire was opened on them from behind the company, Watts himself dashed into the house from where it was issuing and shot dead the defenders.

His inspired leadership — which was always from the front — secured the road junction, and with the capture of more than 300 prisoners (who included many senior German officers), the organised resistance in Bremen was brought to an end.

When awarded his Military Cross, Basil Watts was pleased to receive a congratulatory letter from Lieutenant Joe Vandeleur of the Irish Guards (who was played by Michael Caine in the film *A Bridge Too Far*).

Watts and the 4th Somersets had fought their way into Germany all the way from the Normandy beachhead where they had been deposited the previous June. He had been involved in the futile attempt to relieve airborne troops at Arnhem and then in the bitter fighting in the Ardennes.

At the end of the war he found himself in charge of the Volkswagen works at Wolfsburg. After retiring from the Army he kept up his soldiering as a Territorial with the 14th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, and carried out more than 100 jumps. One of the best of the TA rifle shots, he was a member of the regimental team which won the China Cup at Bisley in 1951.

He also featured in Charles Wheeler's BBC television documentary on the Battle for Normandy, made in 1994 to mark its 50th anniversary.

In civilian life Watts worked for Shell and then BP. He leaves his widow, Susan, and their two daughters.

THE TIMES TODAY MONDAY APRIL 5 1999

BALKANS WAR

Britain offers refugees hope

■ Thousands of ethnic Albanians are to be given temporary shelter in Britain and other Western countries, following another 24 hours of mass exodus from Kosovo. Emergency measures will also include a sanctuary for 100,000 refugees in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia..................Reports, pages 1-9

Prison camp claims
They thought they had found sanctuary after fleeing Kosovo, but 1,000 refugees were held at gunpoint in what they described as a hilltop prison camp. They pleaded with Macedonian soldiers to let them contact relatives willing to shelter them......Page 3

Aid arrives in Albania
American and French helicopters arrived in Albania, carrying emergency aid to refugees whose exodus from Kosovo threatens to overwhelm local authorities. The aircraft will establish an air bridge in a belated attempt to bring food and shelter to about 200,000 refugees................Page 4

Bonn shareout plan
Germany, which took on more than 300,000 refugees during the Bosnian and Croatian conflicts, is bracing itself for a new wave of asylum seekers from Kosovo. This time, though, it wants a strict shareout of refugees among EU countries......................Page 5

Pope's plea to Serbs
The Pope, whose diplomatic initiatives to end the war in Kosovo have so far fallen on deaf ears, yesterday made an impassioned appeal for Belgrade to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened so help could be sent to the mass of people stranded on the borders.........................Page 6

NEWS

Sinn Fein denies accord 'sell-out'

■ Republican leaders sought to placate grass roots fears of a Sinn Fein sell-out by calling the latest demands for IRA decommissioning of weapons "dangerous and provocative". Sinn Fein leaders used Easter rallies across Ireland to restore confidence and faith among party members...........................Page 10

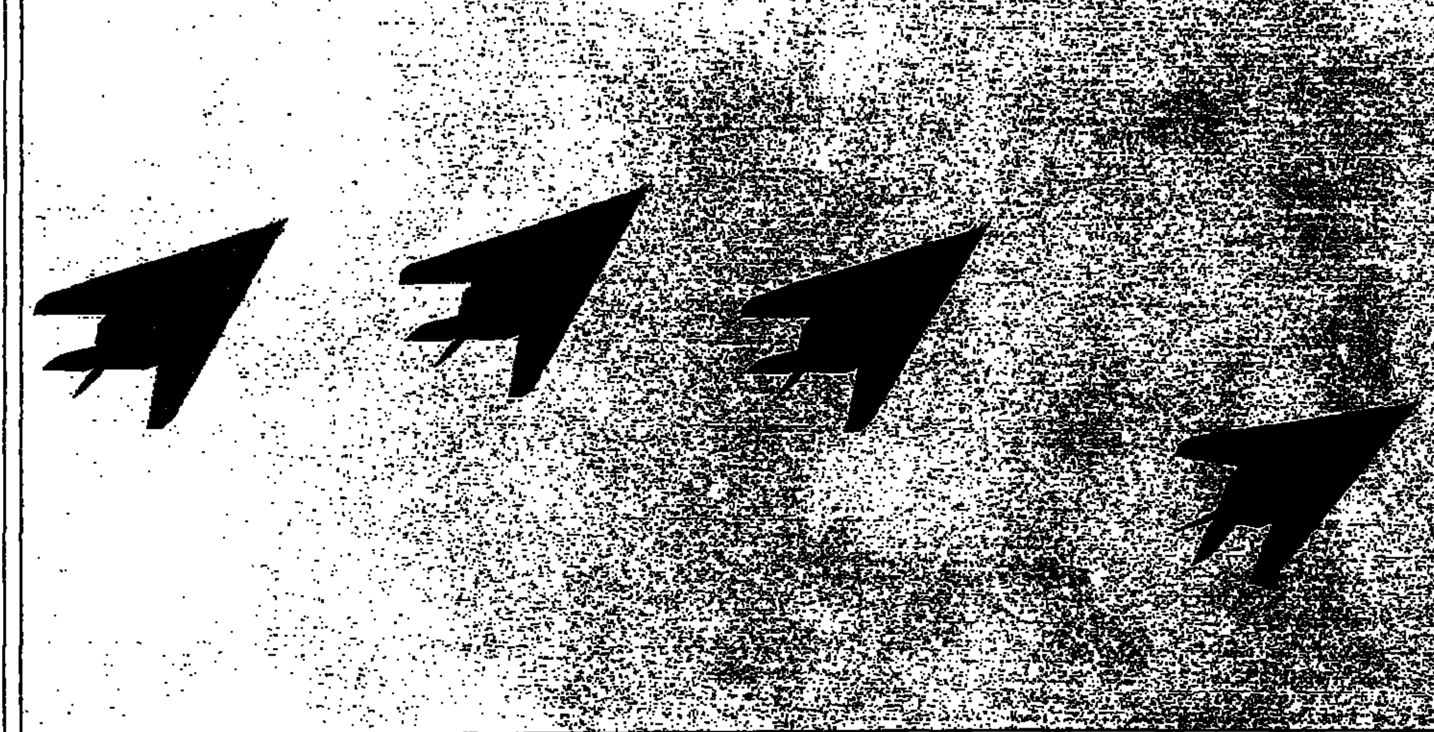
Police renew inquiry
Inquiries into the death of a black student have been re-launched after a secret police review heavily criticised the initial investigation. Senior officers are awaiting the results of a new post mortem on Daniel Blake, whose body was found on a railway line three years ago..........................Page 11

Teacher salary tip
The leader of the National Union of Teachers predicted that the threat of industrial action in schools would force the Labour Government to abandon plans for performance-related pay and instead award £1 billion in salary rises of up to £3,000 for every teacher..............................Page 12

Libya handover nears
An Arab delegation headed to Libya yesterday for the expected handover of two Lockerbie bomb suspects to the United Nations. The group flew to the Tunisian island of Jerba from where they were to be driven over the border to Tripoli..........................Page 12

Towns vie to be cities
A battle is underway in the council chambers of England and Wales for the prize of being the last city to be created this millennium. The Queen intends to mark the event, and the 50th anniversary of her ascension to the throne, by grants of city status.....Page 13

Police in cold pursuit of 25mph pensioner
A police patrol set off in cold pursuit when it spotted an elderly woman driving erratically. In a low-speed chase lasting half an hour, the milometer touched 25 miles an hour as Annaleise Wood, 70, weaved across the country road and clipped the occasional kerb. The police eventually used a "stinger" device more often used to burst the tyres of teenage speedsters........Page 11



ARND WIEGMANN / REUTERS

Another 13 F117 Stealth fighters arrived in Germany from the US yesterday, with 24 now taking part in airstrikes against Serbian forces

BUSINESS

Post plans: The Post Office intends to invest £1.5 billion in overseas acquisitions over the next few years to counter the threat of competition in its domestic market...........Page 48

BP opposition: Alaska may set up its own oil and gas company to challenge the might of BP Amoco and Arco....................................Page 48

New braindrain: Computer experts are threatening to abandon Britain because of a tax change made in Gordon Brown's Budget that forces IT consultants to become staff employees, instead of charging fees through tax-efficient "personal service companies"...................Page 48

BA loans: British Airways is to become the first airline to offer travel loans of between £500 and £15,000 to its customers..................Page 48

Mean streets: Parents usually fear for the safety of their teenage girls. But the streets are now more dangerous for boys....................Page 15

Offering asylum: Britain welcomed Hungarian refugees back in 1956. Would it do the same for Kosovan Albanians now?...................Page 15

Best buys: Keep a careful eye on the high street and you will find plenty of inexpensive, irresistible items that encapsulate this summer's trends..................Pages 16,17

3, 7, 9, 15, 40, 43. Bonus: 11
One winner scooped Saturday night's £6.7 million National Lottery jackpot.

British premiere: Robert Lepage's new play about the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright is unveiled in Glasgow, but, says Benedict Nightingale, *Geometry of Miracles* proves a cluttered affair.....Page 18

Curtain down: The touring production of *The Ladykillers* arrives at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. *A faulty safety curtain sends* the audience home early....Page 18

Raise the roof: When the British Museum wanted a covering for its newly revealed Great Court, it faced a £97 million problem. Now it has been solved...................Page 19

Young audience: Steps, the three-girl, two-boy pop ensemble, play the Shepherds Bush Empire, to the delight of their under-ten-year-old fans...Page 19

Tennis: Tim Henman won an enthralling five-set match against Todd Martin to bring Great Britain level 2-2 against the United States in the Davis Cup.................Page 25

Football: After Robbie Fowler's cocaine antics he should reflect that a transfer away from Liverpool, even to Manchester United, would have opened his mind ....Page 34

Cricket: England's cricketers notched up an impressive 112-run win against Pakistan A in Lahore, with Nick Knight and Graeme Hick outstanding...............Page 26

Rugby union: Wasps, who have played in four cup finals and have yet to win one, will have even greater motivation for their fifth attempt when they meet Newcastle Falcons on May 15.............................Page 33

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
What does Keanu Reeves (left) think he's playing at in *Matrix*? Giles Whittell finds out

■ **LAW**
Why should the Bar, which values its independence, look to the Government for the awarding of silk?

There is irony in the fact that the European leaders now raining bombs down on the Serbs are all children of the anti-war Sixties. Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, is an ex-communist who was at the forefront of anti-Vietnam demonstrations in his youth. Former German peace activists like Daniel Cohn Bendit are now urging on the Luftwaffe, and Tony Blair, who once had long hair and idolised John Lennon, is the most hawkish of all, apart from Clinton. Gone are the days of "give peace a chance". The flower power generation has discovered the power of war.
La Repubblica, Rome

Preview: The former *EastEnders* actress *Martine McCutcheon begins* her recording career in *This is My Moment* (ITV, 6.30pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart isn't surprised to discover "whodunnit".....Pages 46, 47

Phase three
The next two weeks are of fundamental importance to Nato. There is still time for an air barrage of sufficient accuracy and scope to make all the difference to the situation in Kosovo. But strong nerves will be needed...................................Page 21

Treasure in heaven
The Government admits that the current system of VAT charged on repair to church buildings is anomalous. It must now propose a case for change at the European Council of Ministers.........................Page 21

Museum peace
The elegant new courtyard planned for the British Museum should please even those disgruntled by the relocation of the Reading Room last year...............................Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
Milosevic presumably assumed, from the beginning, that Kosovo, like Bosnia, would eventually have to be partitioned. So far everything has gone to plan.................Page 20

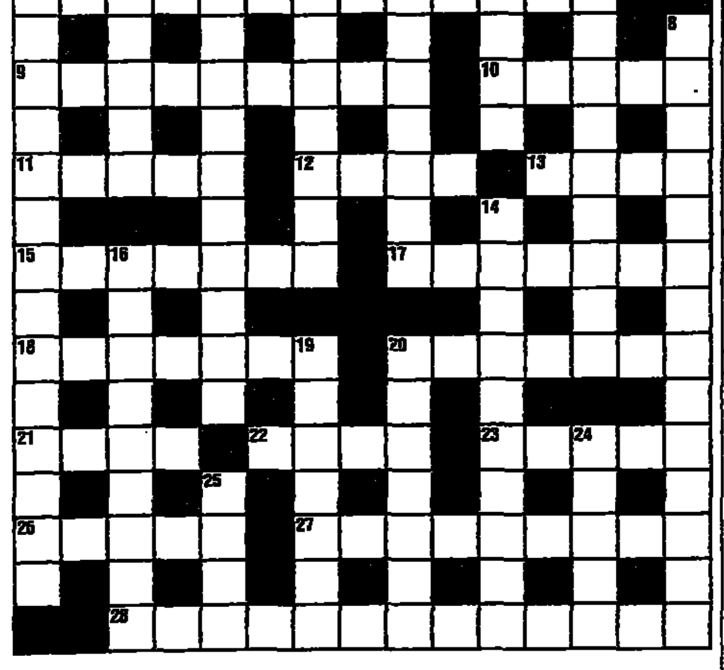
PETER RIDDELL
A failure in Kosovo would undermine Nato and post-Cold War stability in Europe. No wonder the three new entrants to Nato (the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland) are watching the conflict so nervously . . . The days of the post-Cold War peace dividend in Europe are over.....................Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY
If you buy anything of value in Russia you have to drink to it. This applies to cars, fur coats, televisions and anything else that the purchaser feels he cannot afford....Page 20

Lionel Bart, composer and songwriter; **Jesse Stone**, rhythm and blues pioneer; **Andrew Gardner**, newscaster.............................Page 23

Time for Nato "follow through"; music in schools; the art of biography; care of young offenders; teachers' pay; war crimes trials; visiting the British Museum..............Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,069



ACROSS
1 Saw the difference and celebrated (13).
9 Conformity of soldiers involved in a salute (9).
10 Conspiracy to incriminate firm on trial (3-2).
11 *Precious person's bearing* (5).
12 Large book or collection of books rejected by this compiler (4).
13 Just a tree outside (4).
15 Rumour reported in this situation, for example (7).
17 Former nurse holds hand, being infatuated (7).
18 Sort of thistle from a Baltic state (7).
20 Southern Asian river taken by top-notch Japanese warriors (7).
21 Go off variety act (4).
22 Silver is offered, initially, in money-changing business (4).
23 Count, perhaps, old money (5).
26 French female name, variant of *Greek female name* (5).
27 A new, good, and sprightly swimmer (9).
28 Wife at church dance constraining son to act warily (5,4,4).

DOWN
1 Not the sort of missive Lorna would have sent (4,4,6).
2 One's employer is a sucker for *drink* (5).
3 Italicised characters represented as visionary (10).
4 Very much a lieutenant, though raised in drab surroundings (7).
5 Hits out, making contact with Greek character's neck (7).
6 Some use it with a ladder, others prefer it without (4).
7 Disparaging type rode out across *expanse of land* (9).
8 In which one is bound to learn the tricks of the trade (14).
14 Pulls down gloomy quarters housing preservationists (10).
16 Great wolf roaming about in residual light (9).
19 Garbage providing slops for animals (7).
20 About time Japanese commander revealed possible source of report (7).
24 Put up one lodger, at first, in outer room (5).
25 Bo[illegible]d's problem (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,068 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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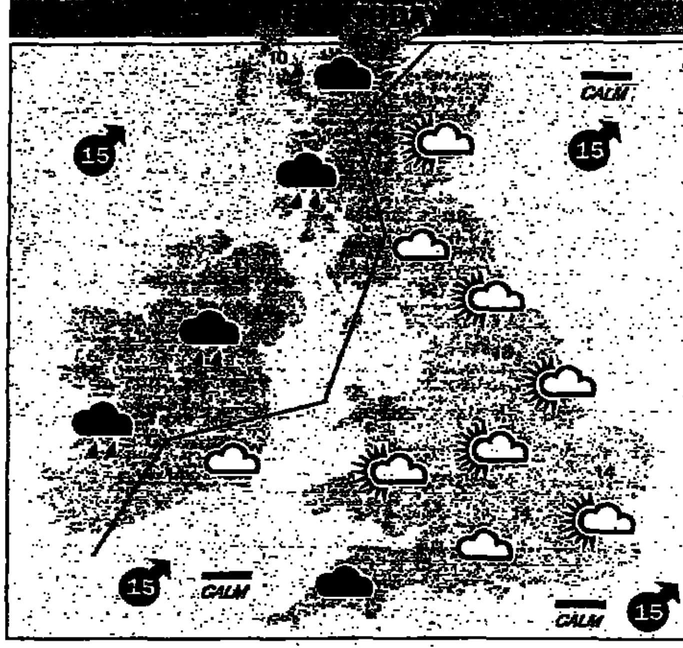
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.28 am Sun sets: 7.39 pm
Moon sets: 8.52 am Moon rises: 12.18 am
Last quarter April 9
London 7.39 pm to 6.25 am
Bristol 7.49 pm to 6.36 am
Edinburgh 7.58 pm to 6.32 am
Manchester 7.51 pm to 6.32 am
Penzance 8.00 pm to 6.49 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 48.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS
THE TIMES
FREE BOOKS WALKERS

☐ **General:** southeast Scotland, northeast England, the Midlands, East Anglia and southeast England will be mostly dry and quite warm with enough breaks in the cloud to allow some sunny spells. Wales, western England, western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and isolated showers in the morning, but it will become more overcast in the second half of the day with drizzly rain reaching Northern Ireland early in the afternoon and remaining areas before evening. Meanwhile, northeast Scotland will start wet but it will soon become drier and brighter.
Tonight, most of the United Kingdom will be very mild but cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle. Amounts of rain in the south and east will be quite small, but some heavier bursts of rain are expected in northern and western areas where it will also be rather blustery.
☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands, E England, Channel Islands, Central N England, NE England:** mainly dry and fairly bright with patchy cloud and a few sunny intervals. Quite warm by early afternoon. Wind light, SW. Max 17C (63F).
☐ **SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District:** a few sunny spells in the morning, but becoming increasingly overcast during the afternoon with a growing risk of drizzle, especially on the west coast. Wind moderate, SW. Max 15C (59F).
☐ **Isle of Man, N Ireland:** a little sunshine at first, but drizzly rain will spread slowly from the south-west in the afternoon. Wind moderate, SW. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** any overnight rain will soon clear to leave a mostly dry and bright day, but drizzly rain will spread from the southwest in the evening. Wind moderate, S to SW. Max 16C (61F).
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunny intervals and the odd shower in the morning. Increasingly overcast during the afternoon with light rain arriving before evening. Wind moderate, S to SW. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** some rain at first, but it will turn drier and brighter by late morning or early afternoon. Wind brisk, SE, easing to SW. Max 11C (52F).
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mainly cloudy, outbreaks of rain spreading from west, most persistent in north and west. Wind fresh, S or SW. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday:** unsettled and breezy with bands of showery rain crossing the country at intervals, but with some sunshine. Temperatures will remain above average.



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low U drifts north, filling slowly. Low V remains slow moving with little change in central pressure. The high pressure over Europe will ease southwards.



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm b = bright, c = cloud, d = drizzle; ds = dust storm, du = dull, f = fair, fg = fog; g = gales; h = hail; r = rain sh = shower, sl = sleet s = sun; t = thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.8	-	14	57	fg	Leeds	4.1	-	18	64	s
Anglesey	0.6	0.01	12	54	d	Lerwick	7.3	-	10	50	s
Aspatria	1.3	0.01	15	59	r	Leuchars	0.2	0.01	9	48	fg
Aviemore	3.0	0.10	14	57	b	London	3.3	0.01	18	64	b
Belfast	0.6	0.06	15	59	du	Lowestoft	4.0	0.01	15	59	c
Birmingham	0.7	0.01	16	61	b	Manchester	1.9	-	17	63	c
Bognor R	1.1	-	15	59	c	Margate	3.2	0.01	16	61	b
Bournemth	1.2	0.01	15	59	d	Morecambe	3.9	0.01	17	63	du
Bristol	0.2	0.01	16	61	c	Newcastle	5.9	0.01	18	64	s
Buxton	3.7	-	15	59	b	Newquay	0.6	0.08	13	55	d
Cardiff	-	0.02	15	59	sh	Norwich	4.3	0.01	18	64	b
Clacton	X	0.05	13	55	b	Penzance	0.3	0.08	13	55	r
Cleethorpes	7.3	-	19	66	s	Poole	0.2	0.01	18	64	c
Colwyn Bay	6.2	0.01	18	64	s	Prestatyn	2.6	-	18	64	b
Cromer	6.5	0.01	16	61	s	Ross on Wye	0.3	0.01	17	63	c
Eastbourne	0.4	0.01	13	56	c	Scarborough	7.3	-	17	63	s
Eskdalemuir	2.1	0.17	11	52	r	Shrewsbury	0.3	-	16	61	b
Exmouth	0.5	0.01	12	54	fg	Skegness	7.2	-	17	63	s
Fishguard	-	0.10	14	57	r	Southend	3.0	-	14	57	s
Folkestone	2.5	0.01	15	59	b	Southport	X	-	16	61	b
Hastings	3.?	0.01	14	57	b	Southsea	3.7	-	16	61	du
Hayling I.	1.9	-	14	57	b	Stornoway	-	0.07	10	50	r
Herne Bay	3.2	-	17	63	b	Swanage	2.1	-	15	59	c
Hove	-	-	11	52	c	Teignmouth	1.3	0.01	14	57	d
Hunstanton	6.2	-	18	64	b	Tenby	-	0.16	12	54	d
Isle of Man	2.0	0.01	11	52	du	Tiree	2.8	0.07	11	52	sh
Jersey	1.2	0.01	17	63	c	Torquay	1.1	0.01	15	59	c
Kinloss	3.:	-	15	59	b	Weymouth	0.9	0.01	11	52	d

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	f	Cologne	21	70	s	Madrid	16	61	s	Rome	18	64	s
Akrotiri	18	64	f	C'phagn	15	59	s	Majorca	19	66	f	Salzburg	15	59	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Corfu	15	59	h	Malaga	21	70	s	S Frisco	14	57	b
Algiers	21	70	s	Dublin	12	54	c	Malta	19	66	s	Santiago	19	66	f
Amsdrm	19	66	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Melbourne	16	61	c	S Paulo	X		
Athens	17	63	f	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	Seoul	13	55	s
Bahrain	29	84	s	Florence	17	63	s	Miami	28	82	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	35	95	f	Frankfurt	19	66	s	Milan	20	68	s	Stockholm	12	54	s
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	7	45	s	Strasb'rg	19	66	s
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	17	63	f	Moscow	13	55	s	Sydney	19	66	r
Beijing	16	61	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	16	61	s	Tangier	18	64	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	5	41	r	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	20	68	f
Belgrade	14	57	f	Hong K	29	84	c	Naples	17	63	f	Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	18	64	s	Innsbruck	17	63	s	N Delhi	35	95	s	Tokyo	21	70	f
Bermuda	21	70	s	Istanbul	13	55	f	N York	14	57	f	Toronto	5	41	c
Biarritz	19	66	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	16	61	f	Tunis	20	68	f
Bordeaux	20	68	f	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	7	45	f	Valencia	23	73	s
Brussels	19	66	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	17	63	f	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Budapest	13	55	c	Le Touqt	13	55	f	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	16	61	s
B Aires	21	70	c	Lisbon	18	64	f	Prague	15	59	c	Vienna	17	63	f
Cairo	23	73	f	Locarno	18	64	f	Reykjavik	4	39	s	Warsaw	16	61	s
Cape Tn	X			L Angeles	14	57	s	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	22	72	s
Chicago	22	72	s	Luxembg	16	61	s	Rio de J	29	84	s	Wellngton	20	68	X
Ch'church	21	70	X	Luxor	26	79	s	Riyadh	37	99	s	Zurich	17	63	s

Temperatures at midday local time Friday X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	3:40	3.9	15:59	3.9	Liverpool	1:24	8.9	12:40	8.7
Avonmouth	9:32	12.4	21:46	12.1	London Bridge	4:14	6.9	16:30	6.9
Belfast	1:17	3.3	13:39	3.3	Lowestoft	-	-	12:02	2.3
Cardiff	8:18	11.5	21:32	11.2	Margate	2:15	4.6	14:29	4.5
Devonport	8:05	5.2	20:22	5.1	Milford Haven	8:36	6.4	20:51	6.3
Dover	1:15	6.4	13:28	6.2	Newquay	7:29	6.5	19:44	6.3
Dublin	1:43	3.8	14:13	3.8	Oban	7:51	3.8	20:18	3.6
Falmouth	7:38	5.0	19:53	4.9	Penzance	6:57	5.1	19:14	5.0
Greenock	2:57	3.1	14:57	3.2	Portland	9:14	1.6	21:23	1.6
Harwich	2:06	3.7	14:21	3.7	Portsmouth	1:38	4.4	13:50	4.3
Holyhead	0:32	5.2	12:48	5.1	Shoreham	1:22	5.9	13:29	5.8
Hull (Albert D)	8:42	8.3	20:59	8.1	Southampton	1:03	4.3	13:20	4.2
Ilfracombe	8:18	8.5	20:33	8.4	Swansea	8:37	11.5	20:54	11.3
King's Lynn	8:45	6.2	20:52	6.3	Tees	6:03	9.6	18:23	9.6
Leith	5:08	5.1	17:29	5.0	Walton-On-Naze	2:01	4.1	14:16	4.0

All times GMT. Heights in metres

Yesterday: highest day temp: Cleethorpes (Lincolnshire) 19C (66F); lowest day max: Fair Isle (Shetland) 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig (Gwynedd) 0.37ins; highest sunshine: Cleethorpes, Lerwick (Shetland), and Scarborough (North Yorkshire) 7.3hrs

هكذا من الأصل

Shades of excellence
John Hopkins on David Duval
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Sniffing trouble
Another howler by Fowler
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Wasps buzzing
Gloucester go down in semi-final
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TIMES SPORT
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MONDAY APRIL 5 1999

Briton levels to ensure final twist

Henman's tie worn with distinction

BY ALIX RAMSAY, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

"AT THIS level, it is not about taking part, it is all about winning and losing." It was a very un-British thing for Great Britain's favourite son to say, especially on such a patriotic occasion, but for once Tim Henman had every right to be as bullish as he liked as he kept his country's Davis Cup hopes alive in their world group tie with the United States yesterday. He had just beaten Todd Martin 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 in front an ecstatic crowd in Birmingham to level the tie at two rubbers all and leave Greg Rusedski to fly the flag in the decider.

Henman has earned his corn this weekend; by the time that he left the court, he had played nearly 11 hours of tennis in three days and shown that he is a fast learner in this game. On Friday night, he could barely hide his misery after he had lost to Jim Courier. At the time, he said he was just not ready for what he had faced. The pressure, the intensity of the moment and the expectation of 9,400 cheering supporters had got to him and he was struggling from the start. Just 48 hours later, he was prepared for the battle and ready to win.

"Once you realise you are in a new experience, then you accept it and get on with it," he said, looking a much happier man. "I got used to it and I was able to approach today's singles a bit differently. I was prepared for the atmosphere, I was prepared for the intensity, and I won."

The match yesterday was just what Martin did not want. After two months of struggling with a pulled abdominal muscle, the thought of three matches back-to-back was not his idea of fun. By yesterday afternoon, he looked weary from the start. Then again, so did Henman, but both showed that when it comes to playing with no fuel left in the tank, both can run for hours on fumes alone. If Henman took his time to pick up speed, Martin showed that he has reserves beyond belief. Just when he looked down and out, he came back to make Henman work even harder to achieve his dream.

The beauty — and the frustration — of Davis Cup-ties is that they are played over the best of five sets. Winning one set can settle the nerves, but there is still a long way to go from there. Surprisingly, then, the whole match turned on one duff line-call. Having taken the first set as a gift from Henman — the Britain No 1 dropped his service by hitting just one first service in play and throwing in a couple of miserable forehand errors — Martin was in charge. He broke for a 4-3 lead in the second set and was serving at 30-15 when he planted a backhand volley. He thought it was in, even Henman thought it was in, but the line judge thought otherwise. Suddenly, the gentlemanly Martin was livid — or as livid as he is likely to get. Swatting away the ball in fury, he took his mind off the job and Henman was back in the match, breaking Martin's service to level the scores.

"I would hate to think that I am making excuses for myself," Martin said, "because it was my fault I lost my concentration. But it would have been a hell of a lot easier to keep my concentration if that call had been made properly. I would not have expected Tim to give me that call in this situation — maybe in any other tournament, but not in Davis Cup."

And, being Davis Cup, it brought from Henman a level of play that he has not been able to reach all year. From a 29 per cent first-service figure, he was now banging in his first service with confidence and venom. He swept Martin aside to take the next five games, winning the second set and taking an early and vital lead in the third. For that spell, he could do no wrong — the ace count reached double figures and when forced to stay on the baseline, he was winning points from here as well.

The massed ranks of the British support crew — everyone that David Lloyd, the captain, could lay his hands on had been brought in to swell the numbers — were armed with rattles and flags, but spent much of the afternoon alternately chewing their nails and jumping from their seats with sheer joy and relief as first Henman was broken for the United States to go 3-2, before breaking back two games later, sending a backhand return down the line to take the Martin service to love and head for the tie-break.

By this stage, the crowd, who cheered and screamed for more than three hours, could hardly contain themselves. Henman sped to a 4-0 lead, "but even then I knew I had to play some tough points yet", he said. His eighteenth ace brought him match point and when his next service was called out, the shout was lost in the cheers as the crowd leapt to their feet thinking that Henman had won. Calm and controlled, Henman resumed his position on the baseline and, as Martin's final backhand headed for the net, he saluted the crowd that had taken him through 11 hours of frustration and delight and ran to greet his team-mates.

"It was a great match, that's the best way to describe it," Henman said. Even Martin could not disagree. "Tim is not No 7 in the world by accident," he said. "He's a heck of a player and today he proved he's a great competitor as well." More than 9,000 of the faithful in Birmingham had known that all along.

THE DAVIS CUP

GREAT BRITAIN 2 - 2 UNITED STATES

Friday: T Henman lost to J Courier 6-7, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6, 5-7
G Rusedski lost to T Martin 4-6, 4-6, 2-6

Saturday: Henman and Rusedski bt Courier and A O'Brien 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3

Yesterday: Henman bt Martin 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6
(Not including Rusedski v Courier, finished late yesterday)

Iron fist: Henman shows the steel during his defeat of Martin that took the tie down to the wire in Birmingham yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland



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CRICKET: LARA'S OVER-RELIANCE ON AMBROSE AND WALSH LETS AUSTRALIA OFF THE HOOK

Miller's heroics contrast with captain's flaws

FROM PAT GIBSON IN ANTIGUA

IT WAS more like the Sunday slog than the critical contest that will decide the destiny of the Frank Worrell trophy as Colin Miller, Australia's unsung hero, playing in his first match of the series, broke the West Indies grip on the fourth and final Test here yesterday.

Brian Lara's policy of containment in the knowledge that Australia had to win the game to square the series and retain the trophy was working to perfection when they slumped from their overnight total of 221 for five to 242 for eight in the face of an electrifying spell from Curtly Ambrose.

The trouble was that even Lara seemed to be carried away by the romance of it as the fast bowler from the tiny village of Sweets rolled back the years once more. Lara simply kept him on too long and Miller took full advantage, hooking Ambrose for two sixes on his way to 43 out of 53 for the ninth wicket and, with Steve Waugh, his captain, lifted Australia to a total of 303.

Miller then added to his laurels with the ball, having Adrian Griffith caught behind in his first over, to leave West Indies on 19 for one, and Sherwin Campbell caught at second slip, in his second to leave the West Indies struggling at 20 for two and much again depending on Lara.

Australia's hopes had been resting on Waugh when he resumed on 52, but, astonishingly, he made no attempt to protect the tail that looked even more vulnerable for the absence of Shane Warne, whose batting has improved only for his bowling to deteriorate.

The Ian Healy of old would have needed no protection, of course, but his batting has gone to pieces and he had managed only to advance from four to six when he followed a ball from Ambrose and edged it comfortably to second slip. In seven innings in the series, Healy has made 37.

That wicket was Ambrose's 363rd in Tests, taking him past Imran Khan into seventh place among the world's leading wicket-takers, and two more quickly followed as Adam Dale and Stuart MacGill continued to provide slip-catching practice.

Waugh surveyed it all impassively from the other end, demonstrating only too well why the determination and single-mindedness that make him the batsman he is do not mean that he is a good captain. He has done his best to match Lara's match-winning performances in the past two Tests in Jamaica and Barbados, scoring 100 in one and 199 in the other, but he seems to have learned nothing from his counterpart's object lesson in how to bat with lesser mortals.

If Waugh's tactic with the bat was hard to understand, then so was Lara's strategy in the field. Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, his faithful accomplice, were obviously wilting after more than an hour's bowling in the hot sun, yet Lara kept them on in the face of Miller's onslaught.

It was agricultural stuff from the Tasmanian, who has always appeared to be more like a club cricketer than a Test player with his penchant for switching from medium-paced seamers to off spin as the situation demands, but it was highly effective, apart from one hilarious moment when he swung with such gusto that his bat sailed out of his hands towards the square-leg umpire.

He had made his 43 off 38 balls when he heaved at the left arm spin of Jimmy Adams and gave a simple catch to mid-on, whereupon Lara rightly summoned Ambrose to collect his reward, which he duly did on the stroke of lunch by removing McGrath to claim his 22nd five-wicket haul.

Waugh was left unbeaten on 72 after more than three hours at the crease, but he had added only 20 in the morning session and invited harsh questions about exactly where his priorities lie. His legitimate answer would be that, without him, Australia would not have got anything like as many as they did and at least they had a competetive total on a pitch that had livened up considerably from the first day.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater c Joseph b Perry	33
G S Blewett c Jacobs b Collymore	32
J L Langer run out	51
M E Waugh c Hooper b Walsh	11
*S R Waugh not out	72
R T Ponting lbw b Ambrose	21
†I A Healy c Hooper b Ambrose	6
A C Dale c Hooper b Ambrose	1
S C G MacGill c Joseph b Ambrose	4
C R Miller c Joseph b Adams	43
G D McGrath c Jacobs b Ambrose	5
Extras (lb 5, nb 19)	24
Total	303

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-76, 3-96, 4-155, 5-211, 6-226, 7-232, 8-242, 9-295.

BOWLING: Ambrose 29.5-6-94-5; Walsh 26-1-87-1; Collymore 25-6-49-1; Perry 15-5-36-1; Adams 6-1-18-1; Hooper 10-1-34-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c M E Waugh b Miller	8
A F G Griffith c Healy b Miller	9
D R E Joseph not out	7
*B C Lara not out	31
Extras (nb 3)	3
Total (2 wkts)	58

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-20.

BOWLING: McGrath 10-4-12-0; Dale 10-4-25-0; Miller 6-2-17-2; MacGill 1-0-4-0.

Umpires: D L Orchard (SA) and S A Bucknor



Miller runs a single on the second day of the fourth Test during his highest Test score of 43

Hollioake is handed unfavourable hint

Stewart: precautionary exit

ENGLAND completed a week-long stay in Lahore by recording another comprehensive victory over Pakistan A to offer their broadest hint yet about their thinking for this summer's World Cup.

Their 112-run victory followed their triumph on Saturday by eight wickets over the same opposition and rounded off a satisfactory stay in Pakistan before they transfer to Dubai in preparation for the Coca-Cola Cup tournament in Sharjah. However, the absence of Alec Stewart, the captain, from the field as a precaution, having injured his groin while contributing 73 to an imposing total of 291 for four, forced England into appointing a temporary captain during the Pakistan reply.

The obvious candidate might have been Adam Hollioake, of Surrey, the captain of the England one-day team less than a year ago, but the emergence of Andrew Flintoff, the Lancashire all-rounder, as a competitor for his place instead prompted the selectors to hand the task to Neil Fairbrother, Flintoff's clubmate.

It was a clear message from David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, that Hollioake is far from assured a place in England's World Cup starting line-up and an indication of how cemented Fairbrother is in the selectors' thoughts.

"We haven't been pressed by the World Cup authorities to name a vice-captain, although we had a meeting about it before this trip," Graveney said. "Andrew Flintoff's emergence has caused competition for places at No 6 and No 7 and obviously it would be preferable to have a vice-captain who is a regular in the side."

Stewart's contribution with the bat formed part of a stand of 161 in 30 overs with Nick Knight, who made 92 from 94 deliveries.

GOLF

Britons beset by frailties on the green

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTA

IN PUTTING the finishing touches to his preparation for the Masters, Miguel Angel Jiménez completed a workmanlike round of 71 to finish the BellSouth Classic with a total of 283, five under par. However, his second-best round of the week contributed to a total that left him far behind Stewart Cink, the tournament leader, who was 17 under par with seven holes remaining.

John Huston and Rory Sabbatini, of South Africa, were tied in second place at 16 under, with the most dangerous man of all, David Duval, who is bidding for his fourth success of the season, a stroke further back.

Play was slow and languid on an afternoon of humidity and heavy cloud. It seemed as if all the players had one eye on the Masters at Augusta, 90 miles to the East, the next event on the calender.

Ian Woosnam, who had complained of hurting his back towards the end of his round on Friday, started the day at four under par, but then bogeyed two of his first three holes, and birdied the third, for the erratic start that seems to be par for the course for him these days.

Woosnam fell further away the longer the round wore on to finish with a 75, leaving him at one under par overall. He complains of being uncertain on the greens, sometimes switching to putting with his left hand below his right. For him, the game seems to be a struggle and the visit to Augusta, where he triumphed in 1991, will provide only a further reminder that his play is a long way from what it once was.

For most of this year, the same could be said of Colin Montgomerie, whose form has flickered like a guttering candle. Montgomerie believes that the purity and accuracy of his striking from tee to green is not being matched by his putting. Certainly, on Friday his score of 31 for the homeward nine was the best run he has had this year, but all it did was exaggerate how comparatively poorly he had putted on his outward nine and, in fact, how poorly he had putted for most of the year.

Montgomerie knows that he somehow needs to shave two or even three putts per round from his scores if he is to become a world force once again. Yesterday he had a 76 and said afterwards: "I lost interest, to be honest. Nothing was happening out there. This is the sixth week in succession I have putted badly. The Masters is just another tournament and I go there with no expectations."

Gabriel Hjerstedt, who is looking increasingly like a Ryder Cup player, had a steady outward half. He hits the ball a long way, has a very good short game and scores a lot of birdies, which in a matchplay format is very useful.

The question of his membership of the European Tour needs to be resolved, because, on the form that he has shown in the early months of this year, he would make a very useful member of the team.

Jiménez nearly brought his round to a spectacular conclusion. He had driven into the trees on the right of the 9th but played an excellent recovery shot and his ball just rolled down a bank to the left of the green.

A bunker then lay in his line and he had no more than 15ft of putting surface to work with, but he hit one of those magical shots that seems to shoot up almost vertically. The ball landed just over the bunker and coasted to within a foot of the pin, so that it was easy for him to hole out for a par.

Duval the master 34
Scores 41

SPORT IN BRIEF

Wolstenholme wins his third Putter

■ **GOLF:** Gary Wolstenholme, one of the last great career amateurs left in the modern game, won the Duncan Putter at Southerndown yesterday. Wolstenholme, 38, won his third Putter with a 54-hole total of 216, six over par, two ahead of Matthew King, the defending champion. The cornerstone of the veteran Walker Cup player's victory was his 67 in the second round, when he had five birdies in seven holes from the 8th. It gave him a two-stroke lead going in to the final round, in which he dropped three strokes in the first two holes, but then dug in to come home in 75.

Ireland hold on

■ **RUGBY UNION:** Ireland Schools held off a determined comeback to defeat their England counterparts at Musgrave Park, in Cork. Ireland were rewarded for their early resourceful play with a try to Conrad O'Sullivan and a penalty to Pat McCarthy. Charlie Hodgson, the England fly half, reduced the lead with a penalty, but Ireland went into half-time leading 8-3. England dominated the second half, but solid defence restricted them to a single penalty goal.

Hingis reaches final

■ **TENNIS:** Martina Hingis, the world No 1, was set to face Anna Kournikova, the 17-year-old Russian, in the final of the Family Circle Cup, in South Carolina, yesterday. Hingis overcame Jana Novotna, the Wimbledon champion, 6-2, 6-3 in her semi-final on Saturday to reach her fourth final of the year. In the second semi-final, Kournikova outlasted Patty Schnyder, the Swiss left-hander, 6-7, 6-0, 6-3, to reach the second final of her career.

Belgian sprints in

■ **CYCLING:** Peter van Petegem, the Belgian sprinter, won the Tour of Flanders, the second round of the 1999 World Cup series, for the TVM team in the suburbs of Brussels yesterday. Gordon McCauley, the New Zealand champion, has taken the overall lead in the Girvan three-day race, which ends today. He started the third stage of 72 miles in fourth place, but took over the yellow jersey by finishing 3sec behind Jon Tanner, the stage winner.

Arsenal await Saints

■ **FOOTBALL:** Arsenal, the FA Women's Cup-holders, will play Southampton Saints, who have reached the last stage for the first time, in this year's final, to be held at The Valley, Charlton Athletic's ground on Monday, May 3. Arsenal, who also won the trophy in 1993 and 1995, beat Doncaster Belles, six-times winners of the competition, in yesterday's semi-final, which was played at Worksop Town FC.

Pakistan triumph

■ **CRICKET:** Azhar Mahmood, a medium-pace bowler, took five for 38 as Pakistan dismissed India for 168 to win the triangular tournament final in Lahore by 123 runs yesterday. After Pakistan had scored 291 for eight from their 50 overs, Inzaman-ul-Haq leading the way with a polished 91, the India innings was frequently interrupted by unruly supporters who hurled plastic water bottles on to the playing area.

Hungry Sharks given food for thought

BASKETBALL

By Nicholas Harling

THE prospect of a treble that would complete a near-perfect season for Sheffield Sharks began to look a trifle less certain yesterday when Greater London Leopards, their play-off opponents, revealed impressive finishing form in the London Arena.

Deposed champions they may be, but the Leopards, watched by Chris Finch, the Sharks coach, reeled off the first 12 points of overtime in taking them to a 98-88 victory over London Towers that completed the regular-season programme.

The Sharks, who were crowned champions of the Budweiser League on Friday, after their tumultuous victory over Manchester Giants, will meet the Leopards, the eighth-placed club, in a quarter-final series beginning at Brentwood next Sunday.

Behind from early in the second quarter, the Leopards did not regain the lead until Rashod Johnson connected 89sec from time. Malcolm Leak replied with two free throws, but the Towers did not score again until 51sec of overtime remained. By then, the game was all over, effectively won for the Leopards by Johnson's 26 points and 21 by Robert Youngblood.

For the third year running, the Towers will face Newcastle Eagles in their quarter-final. Only by scoring 19 unanswered points in the third quarter did the Eagles avoid a humiliating defeat at the bottom club, Worthing Bears, who eventually succumbed 100-88.

Thames Valley Tigers secured third place by overcoming Chester Jets 112-100, with the help of 27 points from John McCord, and ensured a quarter-final with Derby Storm, who subjected them to an embarrassing 2-0 reverse in 1994 after they had become champions.

The embarrassment belonged to Derby, however, on Saturday, when they were beaten 87-85 at home by Leicester Riders, who had finished one from bottom. Bob Donewald, the Derby coach, incurred yet another technical offence for abusing the officials.

PLAY OFFS: First leg: Newcastle v London Towers (April 9), Derby v Thames Valley (April 10), Birmingham Bullets v Manchester, Leopards v Sheffield (both April 11). Second leg: Sheffield v Leopards, Thames Valley v Derby (both April 14). Manchester v Birmingham, London Towers v Newcastle (both April 15)

Chinn brushes aside defence and dispute

By Martin Leach

NICKY CHINN shrugged off the controversy as easily as he did Manchester Storm's defence as he scored the hat-trick that led Cardiff Devils to a 5-0 win in the semi-final of the Sekonda play-off championship.

The Cardiff-born forward was accused of fouling Kris Miller before scoring the first, crucial goal of the victory that put them into the final last night against Nottingham Panthers.

Chinn's challenge left the American spreadeagled on the ice and gave him the vital space in front of goal to slip a pass from Merv Priest beyond the unprotected Frankie Pietrengelo. Graham Horner, the referee, was besieged by Storm players, led by Miller and Dave Morrison, the captain, but he had seen nothing wrong and said that his linesmen had reported only a collision between the two men.

Kurt Kleinendorst, the Storm coach, said: "This was the turning point. Instead of a goal to Cardiff, it should have been a penalty and a power play to us. We never recovered from that moment."

Storm clearly had a case, but Chinn refused to accept any guilt. "There was no cross-check. It was a shoulder. Sometimes you are going to knock them down and sometimes they knock you down," he said.

The incident appeared to unsettle even the usually unflappable Pietrengelo. The netminder, who had conceded an average of less than one goal in the 28 previous games, had two more goals put past him by Chinn and Priest in the next 111sec. Chinn completed his hat-trick and Mario Simioni scored the fifth.

There was a similar flurry of goals in the second period of Nottingham's 4-2 win in the other semi-final, against Bracknell. The Bees, appearing in the first big play-off semi-final in their 12-year history, scored first through Rob Stewart, their captain, after 28 minutes but Nottingham then scored three times in four minutes, through Jason Weaver (2) and Greg Hadden. Mike Bishop added the fourth and the Bees could reply only once, through Joe Ferraccioli.

EQUESTRIANISM

Phillipps takes command

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

POLLY PHILLIPPS and Coral Cove, whose case for a technical breach of medication control at the world three-day event championships last October will come before the International Equestrian Federation later this month, betrayed no hint of the threat hanging over them when they won comfortably their section of the inaugural Rolleston Horse Trials in Leicestershire yesterday.

Phillipps, a veterinary surgeon from nearby Rempstone — who said that she is confident that she will be cleared of the charge — had the satisfaction of relegating Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the world and Olympic champion, to second place, on Aspyring. Tait also finished third, on Toad Hall, a ten-year-old on which he had the fastest cross-country time in the section.

However, on a disappointing day for the organisers of this new event, many of the other Badminton-bound riders, including Mark Todd, Ian Stark and Christina Gifford, withdrew their horses before the cross country because of the sticky, holding ground. Gifford, who took The Gangster round slowly but withdrew her other three rides, said "It's a lovely course, but it's big and so you are taking a lot of chances when the ground is this deep."

Phillipps, whose seventh place at the world championships helped Great Britain to win the bronze medal, had no such reservations. "It's just like the ground I train on," she said. "I just kept the handbrake on." Although clear both in the cross country and showjumping, it was the dressage, for which she had a mark of 30, that she was most pleased. The best dressage came from Pippa Funnell, on Rainbow Magic, the winner of the second section, who had a score of 22. Funnell also finished fourth, on Supreme Rock, her Badminton entry, in the same section.

Results, page 41

HOCKEY: ENGLAND QUALIFY FOR FINAL WHILE SLOUGH'S EUROPEAN HOPES DISAPPEAR

Dancer praises side's discipline

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

ENGLAND qualified to meet Argentina A in the final of the quadrangular tournament in Buenos Aires after a 3-0 victory on Saturday over Argentina B, who will play-off with South Africa for third place.

Calum Giles, who has had a successful tournament, had a hand in all three goals. After opening the scoring from a short corner in the eighteenth minute, he was up-ended two minutes later by the Argentina goalkeeper, who conceded a penalty stroke that was struck by Garcia. Sharpe scored the third goal from a short corner in the 48th minute, but it was Giles who set up the chance with a timely back-pass.

"This was a strong, disciplined performance by the team," Barry Dancer, the England coach said. "We controlled the ball well and built our attacks with an element of patience that was needed against a closely packed defence."

A hat-trick by Vanina Oneto, the Argentina and Den Bosch striker, crushed Slough's hopes of appearing in their third final in four years when the Dutch league champions cruised to a comfortable 8-3 victory in the women's European club championship at 's Hertogenbosch in Holland, yesterday. Indeed, it was a bleak day for British clubs in European competition, for while Slough were suffering their heaviest ever defeat in Europe, Clifton and Glasgow Western crashed out of contention for the medal play-offs in the European Cup Winners' Cup in Terrassa.

Edinburgh Ladies provided the one bright moment when Alison Grant snatched a late winner against Rot Weiss Cologne after Val Neil had levelled the scores in the eighteenth minute to steer the Scots in to the play-off for the bronze medal against Slough.

Needing to beat the home side to qualify for the final, Slough failed miserably. A lacklustre display against Kolos Borispol, of Ukraine, on Saturday did not bode well and despite two superb goals by Jane Smith and Mandy Nicholls in the 2-0 win, the English champions knew that they had to turn in a much improved performance.

Oneto struck twice in the opening 23 minutes as the hosts raced to a 3-0 lead, giving Slough a huge task. Smith pulled one back with a 24th-minute penalty corner, but three goals in a six-minute spell before the break gave the Dutch an unassailable 6-1 lead at half-time.

Karen Brown and Sarah Kelleher, Slough's two experienced internationals, found it difficult to escape the tight marking by their opponents, who turned up the pressure after the restart. Smith reduced the deficit to 7-2 and after Oneto completed her hat-trick and Kelleher was on target with a last-minute penalty corner.



Giles: created chances

SPEEDWAY

Rickardsson takes on dual role

TONY RICKARDSSON, the world champion from Sweden, will miss this afternoon's meeting at Coventry for King's Lynn because he will be representing his Poland side — and his national Government — in Gdansk (Tony Hoare writes).

Rickardsson, who switched from Ipswich in a British record transfer, has been appointed a special ambassador by the Swedish Government for a trade event in the Polish city. The Gdansk side also have a match at home to Grudziadz in the first division of the Polish League and Rickardsson will double up as national representative and rider for Gdansk.

King's Lynn have been given permission to draft in a guest rider — Martin Dugard, of Eastbourne.

Rob Hughes watches the revival of Britain's Davis Cup hopes in Birmingham

Henman provides positive thinking

AT LAST, when the pressure is at its greatest and the tension feeds into the mind, an English sportsman grows. The performance of Tim Henman in Birmingham yesterday, in a febrile, partisan atmosphere that would have frozen the minds of many of our tennis players, survived his third marathon encounter in three days and outlasted Todd Martin, of the United States, who initially looked to have the greater range and greater equipment for the contest. Henman won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 and it was marvellous, uplifting sport.

Around a television set 150 miles away in a Surrey nursing home, Bunny Austin, a survivor indeed, in that he was a member of a last British team to beat the United States in Davis Cup in 1939, marvelled at the levels of stamina and the combat of the modern game.

"I'm watching every ball." Austin, 92, said. "It's absolutely beautiful the way they [Henman and Greg Rusedski] played the doubles, and then the way Tim came back yesterday."

Lynne Truss........35

Beautiful to behold, indeed. Those of us in the arena witnessed another 3hr 13min of man running eventually on neat adrenalin, on the edge of nerve and sinew; and man refusing to yield when there was excuse enough for him to do so.

More than that, when fatigue slowed both Henman and Martin, their game actually appeared to flower with more strokes, more thought, more pureness of quality and design. Is this what is needed to turn the modern game from its bludgeoning force and pace into "thinking" tennis?

There was enormous drama, too, and Henman was first to admit that the match turned on a "questionable" line-call against Martin. It came at the apex of the contest, when a backhand volley that would have helped Martin to go 4-3 up in the crucial third set was ruled out when, clearly, it was on the line. Henman took full advantage, closed out the set 6-3 and, in the dogged tennis that followed, he seldom looked like a loser.

"There are times when you might overrule the call yourself," Henman observed. "This, at a crucial situation in the Davis Cup, was not one of them. There are two of you playing — yourself and your country — and you take what comes. If we played great tennis and lost, it would be a wasted weekend."

There is the clarion sound of the modern man, the modern sport in the era when most sports are business and the percentages count. Yet Martin, upon hearing Henman's admission, said that he would not, in the Davis Cup, expect his opponent to try to overrule.

They were agreed on that and also agreed that Martin, uncharacteristically for this quiet American, allowed the situation, the atmosphere as well as the momentary injustice, to sway his concentration. *How often in the past has it* been the British who succumb to such distractions, when the tough-minded Americans go through?

Absolutely significant to this turning point was the calculated riposte of the British to Friday's display of team force by the Americans. Henman and David Lloyd, the captain, appreciated that the British bench, in comparison to the Americans, lacked both numbers and animation.

They righted this and, in the strange hybrid of the Birmingham crowd, the effect of a line of tracksuited "cheerleaders" for the Brits had its effect. Only a section of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) blazered officials were disapproving as sections of the crowd, dressed for football, took every opportunity *of audience participation* that was going.

The organisers had played their part, handing out 500 free tickets to children who came with their faces painted in the colours of the Union Jack and who gave swimming gala-like shrieks throughout the afternoon and evening.

Martin should not have been distracted, for, at 28, he is a veteran of Davis Cups and, by Henman's own admission, in the first hour of the match it was the American, using guile and stealth, who called the tune. "I found it difficult to work him out and this was my toughest weekend in tennis," Henman said, "but this time I was prepared for the intensity. I feel I played a great match."

Monumental in its quality of physical and mental courage, it suggested that we may not be foolish to hope that Henman might grow into a modern Fred Perry. By using mind when the body was forced to slow, he overhauled a fine opponent in Martin. Bunny Austin would have recognised it as an English trait of old.



Henman, a study in concentration, stretches to hit a backhand against Martin in their monumental Davis Cup encounter yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Doubles turns the tide

BY ALIX RAMSAY, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

NEVER has a game of doubles meant so much to so many people. Normally, the doubles is a gentle afterthought to the main event, but on Saturday afternoon Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski played for 3½ hours as if their lives depended upon it. They had to if Great Britain was to have any chance of salvaging this tie against the United States.

It was a remarkable performance of sheer determination from Henman, as he dragged Rusedski into the match from a set down to beat Todd Martin and Alex O'Brien 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3. Never has he looked so pumped-up for an encounter; every winning point was met with clenched fists and a glare as he gave his partner a few terse instructions and got back to work.

Rusedski had been the weak link in the chain for the first set and a half until, following his leader, he started to nail his returns and crank up the power on the service. With Henman steering operations, the two singles players became a team that, given their vastly differing natures and their history of off-court disagreements, was no small achievement.

From looking desperate and disappointed on Friday night, after his loss to Jim Courier, Hen*man was a changed man and Britain seemed to* have a fighting chance. "The doubles is what it hinges on," Henman said. "Suddenly from 2-0 it's 2-1 and all the pressure is on their shoulders."

David Lloyd, the Great Britain captain, was beside himself as he stood and watched. "If we win the doubles, we can win the whole thing," he had predicted, although not even he would predict what might happen if Britain booked a place in the quarter-finals.

Foster laps up short course to glory

From Craig Lord in Hong Kong

THE medals came thick and fast for Great Britain on the last night of the world short-course championships here, Mark Foster's victory in the 50 metres butterfly bolstering James Hickman's retention of the 200 metres butterfly title on Saturday and helping to buoy the national tally to four gold, five silver and four bronze medals.

Britain's successes left them third among the medals behind Australia and Japan, with silver medals for Graeme Smith in the 1,500 metres freestyle, Helen Don-Duncan in the 200 metres backstroke and James Hickman in the 200 metres medley, while Hickman also helped the 4 x 100 metres medley quartet to the bronze medal behind a world record-breaking Australia squad. The women's medley relay event also produced the first world record-holding Japanese quartet in swimming history.

For Britain, the past four days produced by far the finest result in the short history of world short-course event, staged four times since 1993, and exceeded the achievements of the squad's counterparts from track and field at the recent world indoor athletics championships.

That particular statistic will enable Foster — whose victory yesterday in a championship record of 23.61sec was, like Hickman's the day before, just about as emphatic as they come — to engage in a little friendly gloating when he meets up with Colin Jackson, the world champion at 60 metres hurdles, back at base at the University of Bath.

The banter will doubtlessly involve a certain amount of self-congratulations for both men as Foster reports back that, having taken a leaf from the book of athletics, victory is now literally his from the start.

Ronny Berndt, a researcher for the Olympic testing centre in Hamburg, where Foster's training programmes are prepared by Dirk Lange, a German coach, timed Foster at an "exceptional" 2.18sec for the first 7.5 metres of his race, making him the fastest swimmer off the starting blocks in the world. The time translates to a gain over his rivals of about 30 centimetres at the point Foster emerged into his stroke; his winning margin of 0.26sec over Zhang Qiang, of China, almost totally established from the dive and never conceded.

Hickman, too, stole a march on rivals from the start of the 200 metres butterfly on Saturday, but it was not until the halfway mark that his supremacy in a field brimming with Olympic champions, world champions and former world record-holders shone through. Victory was his after 150 metres, but Hickman did not relent, claiming the title 2sec clear in 1min 52.71.

Last night, his specialist butterfly events out of the way, Hickman said that he was just having fun in the 200 metres medley. It nearly resulted in another title as he raced inside world record pace over the butterfly and backstroke legs of the race before Matthew Dunn, of Australia, looking to retain the title, passed him on the breaststroke. Dunn held on over the freestyle leg to win in 1min 55.81sec, a championship record, with Hickman just a stroke and a half, or 0.71sec, behind.

Graeme Smith, his former training partner at Stockport, achieved his aim of re-establishing himself on the world scene after a low point in his career. The 1996 Olympic silver medal-winner added another second place to his collection, swimming behind Grant Hackett, of Australia, the world record-holder.

Don-Duncan, 17, and a former European junior champion, set things rolling for Britain last night with a silver in the 200 metres backstroke behind Mai Nakamura, of Japan, who swam inside world record pace until thjere were 50 metres to go, finishing 0.40sec off target.

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Hickman celebrates his silver in the 200 metres medley

SNOOKER

McManus hopes to avoid another whiteout

BY PHIL YATES

BEARING in mind the unexpected fate of Stephen Hendry in the first round at the Crucible Theatre last year, Alan McManus is entitled to view his forthcoming match against Jimmy White at the Embassy world championship with a degree of trepidation.

The draw for the last 32 of the game's leading event, conducted on *Grandstand* on BBC television on Saturday, produced a number of intriguing encounters, none more so than White, who beat Hendry 10-4 at the corresponding stage 12 months ago, pitted against McManus.

"It's obvious I could have had an easier draw, but there's no way you'll hear me complaining," McManus, who yesterday defeated Alfie Burden 5-3 to reach the second round of the British Open in Plymouth, said. "Playing Jimmy at Sheffield couldn't be much higher profile and it's something you have to relish. It's just a buzz being there, no matter who you play."

Hendry, second-favourite with the bookmakers to lift the trophy for the seventh time since 1990, also has a tough introduction. He plays Paul Hunter, winner of the Welsh Open last year, while John Higgins launches his title defence against Gerard Greene.

In a contest guaranteed to create enormous interest in the Far East, Marco Fu, of Hong Kong, will meet James Wattana, of Thailand. Wattana, a world championship *semi-finalist in 1997, did little* to bolster his fragile confidence when he was surprisingly eliminated from the British Open yesterday.

Wattana, the world No 15, recovered from 4-2 down to 4-4 against Michael Holt, the world No 193 from Nottingham. He also had the initial scoring opportunity in the deciding frame, but overcut a tricky black off its spot and Holt stepped in with a break of 75 to win 5-4.

"Although James has been struggling lately, he's got a lot of experience at the Crucible and he always seems to do well there," Fu said. While experience is indeed invaluable, form is also relevant and, in that regard, Fu has the edge.

Stephen Lee, the No 9 seed, was forced to withdraw from the British Open after injuring a muscle between his neck and shoulder in a bizarre accident at his home in Trowbridge last week. Lee, beaten 9-8 by Hendry in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters three days earlier, jolted out of bed to answer his telephone when the injury occurred. As a result, Drew Henry received a walkover.

Mark Williams, the 1997 British Open champion, who has already won three world-ranking tournaments this season, began his challenge for a fourth by highlighting a solid 5-2 victory over Joe Perry with a break of 111.

DRAW

K Doherty (Ire) v S James
M King v D Morgan (Wales)
J Wattana (Thai) v M Fu (HK)
J Higgins (Scot) v G Greene (N Ire)
M Williams (Wales) v I McCulloch
P Ebdon v M Stevens (Wales)
A Drago (Malta) v F O'Brien (Ire)
A Hamilton v C Small (Scot)
A McManus (Scot) v J White
A Robidoux (Can) v N Walker
S Hendry (Scot) v P Hunter
R O'Sullivan v L Fernandez (Ire)
J Parrott v T Murphy (N Ire)
S Davis v J Perry
N Bond v D Dale (Wales)
S Lee v J Lardner (Scot)
(England unless stated)

17 year old high jumper given clearance for take off.



The British Airways Olympic Futures Programme of multi-sport training camps in London and Orlando is helping 175 young British athletes achieve their Olympic dreams.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

FA Carling Premiership: Liverpool's derby victory is overshadowed by striker's stupidity

Fowler crosses the line from rascal to rogue

By Kevin McCarra

IF ONLY Robbie Fowler had kept his nose to the grindstone, instead of sticking it where it did not belong. Quick-witted industry and a pair of goals steered Liverpool to a 3-2 win at Anfield on Saturday, their first victory over Everton for five years, but the man with an acute sense of direction when aiming a shot at goal lost his bearings while celebrating his equaliser that levelled the score at 1-1.

Twice, he got down on his knees to run his nose along the white markings of the penalty area. The visiting supporters, at whom he had also gesticulated, assumed that he was pretending to snort a line of cocaine. In the past, Everton fans have taunted Fowler with cries of "smackhead", a reference to the utterly unsubstantiated allegations that Fowler is a drug-user.

Having received a complaint from a member of the public, Merseyside police will be investigating the affair. There could also be disciplinary proceedings by the Football Association. David Elleray, the referee, told Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, that the issue will not be mentioned in his report. Since he was running back to the halfway line after the goal, the referee's view was limited, but the FA will consult the police and review video evidence before deciding, probably tomorrow, whether further action is required.

Fowler is due to attend a hearing on Friday where he and Graeme Le Saux, of Chelsea, will answer charges of misconduct arising from incidents in a match between the clubs in February. His deeds at Anfield at the weekend will not be added to the agenda for consideration at that meeting.

Given the present trend, the Fowler files will soon require their own wing at Lancaster Gate.

When the moment to discuss the latest matter does eventually arrive, it will be difficult to whitewash the white-line contretemps. Fowler has been disowned by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA). "The PFA are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on drug awareness campaigns and here is a player scoring a goal and taking the mickey out of it," Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the body, said.

FOWLER'S HOWLERS

September 1995: Altercation with Neil Ruddock, his Liverpool team-mate, on a flight back from Russia left him with a broken nose.
March 1997: Fined by Uefa after wearing a T-shirt supporting striking Liverpool dockers during a European match.
April 1997: Sent off with David Unsworth, of Everton, after a clash.
February 1999: Fracas with Graeme Le Saux, of Chelsea, at Stamford Bridge after Fowler made a provocative gesture.
March 1999: Fowler and Le Saux both charged with misconduct by the FA.
April 3, 1999: Goal celebrations against Everton cause more controversy.

Houllier did appear to be entirely sincere when proclaiming Fowler's innocence. According to his account, Rigobert Song, the defender, has brought to Anfield a routine learned at Metz, the French club, in which players mark a goal by pretending to graze. It is argued that Fowler, as an innovator, was introducing this piece of harmless fun to English grass. Photographs, however, tend to undermine the explanation. If Fowler was merely impersonating a sheep, why did he have one hand pressed against his left nostril?

Although there might be a few people who will restrict their criticisms by calling Fowler's frolic ill-considered, there is no doubt of the provocative effect that the actions had, as the forward himself acknowledged when he publicly apologised yesterday. "Despite my actions being taken in the heat of the moment immediately following the penalty, I realise that they have caused great offence and I deeply regret that," he said.

Fowler was probably inspired by mischief rather than malice. If an allusion to substance abuse was intended, there was a certain doltish ingenuity in the employment of an innocent strip of paint on the turf as his prop. Unfortunately, a derby match on an April afternoon is not the place for a joke that might suit a satirical review on television after the nine o'clock watershed.

Given that he was an Everton fan as a child, the forward is unlikely to nurse any deep hatred of the Goodison club. Gifted forwards, though, often possess a strong anarchic streak. To score a goal is to unravel the other team's plans, to put one over on defenders. People recognise the delightful lawlessness of it whenever they talk about a player "nicking" a goal. The trait is inherently unstable. As the controversy on Saturday proves, there is always a danger that the loveable rascal will go too far and turn into a rogue.

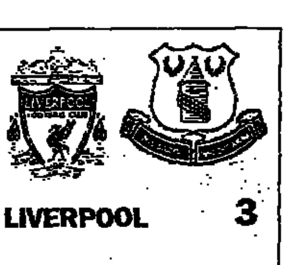
Matt Dickinson, page 34

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT



Fowler celebrates his first goal in his side's 3-2 victory against Everton with a gesture that could see the striker facing further disciplinary problems

Everton left with nothing but concern



LIVERPOOL 3
EVERTON 2
by Kevin McCarra

FOR Everton supporters, the stab of indignation that they may have felt over Robbie Fowler's capering will count for less than the long ache of apprehension. Relegation is not always the consequence of ruinous performances. Despair can creep out from bad timing, marginal failures and a flow of events that smacks into a team with the force of a water cannon.

Everton might have had a point on Saturday. Danny Cadamarteri could have equalised twice in the closing stages, appearing to be pulled back by Steve Staunton on the first occasion. A little later, the Everton forward found his shot being cleared from the line by Paul Gerrard, the Liverpool substitute.

If the more distinguished team deserves victory, however, then the Anfield side were rightful winners. Despite conceding a goal after 40sec when a 25-yard shot by Olivier Dacourt was deflected into the net by Rigobert Song, their defender, Liverpool settled to rhythmic attacking.

The sheer purposefulness was heartening to those supporters who accuse the side of feckless diffidence. There was spring and ruggedness from Song, while, in midfield, the contribution of Paul Ince was a matter of substance rather than of melodramatic gesture.

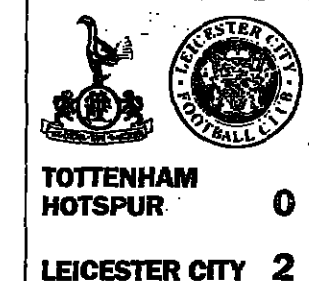
As it happens, it was a foray by Ince that pulled Liverpool level as he burst past the turning Marco Materazzi and was knocked over. Fowler slipped the penalty into the corner of the net. The forward established a lead in the 25th minute by heading home after Steve McManaman had flicked on a corner from Patrik Berger. The Czech increased the advantage seven minutes from the end, meeting Dacourt's clearance to put a bouncing shot into the net.

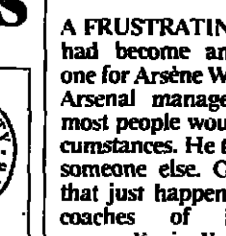
Unsophisticated though Everton are, they were never wholly without hope. Even in the first half, when they flailed and failed to cope with Fowler's clever use of space behind the attack, there was occasional menace, as when Materazzi struck a free kick against the post. With five minutes remaining, Francis Jeffers, a substitute, whirled to whip a header from Campbell into the top corner.

The revival fell only just short of completion. Ambitions were none the less intensified. Liverpool aim for the Uefa Cup by seeking a high place in the FA Carling Premiership. Everton will be delighted if they can just remain in it for another year.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — V Heggem (sub: P Gerrard, 72min), R Song, S Staunton, D Matteo — S McManaman, P Ince, J Redknapp, P Berger — R Fowler (sub: K Riedle, 86), M Owen.
EVERTON (4-4-2): T Myhre — C Short, D Watson, M Materazzi (sub: D Weir, 46), D Unsworth — N Barmby (sub: F Jeffers, 77), O Dacourt, S Gemmill, M Ball — M Branch (sub: D Cadamarteri, 66), K Campbell.
Referee: D Elleray

Tottenham lose as Leicester play mind games





TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
LEICESTER CITY 2
by Alyson Rudd

AS SOON as they knew that a spinning wheel would ruin the new-found joy of parenthood, Sleeping Beauty's mum and dad ordered that all wheels and spindles be destroyed. George Graham did not exactly burn the Worthington Cup, but he banned it from the pitch.

"I was totally against that," he said. The Tottenham manager knew full well that if the team wallowed in their Wembley victory over Leicester, his proud home record since taking over at White Hart Lane would be blemished.

But just as the wicked queen all too easily placed a spinning wheel in front of the princess, Martin O'Neill gave Tottenham the cup celebration their manager wanted to avoid. So, as the Tottenham team filed out on to the pitch, the visitors formed a guard of honour and applauded them. With their egos massaged, Spurs met their inevitable fate.

This match was all about psychology. Having succumbed to a last-minute goal by Allan Nielsen in a match that would have earned them a place in Europe, Leicester felt aggrieved. Tottenham, on course for a cup double, must have felt superior. The supporters, delighted to have an immediate opportunity to goad each other so soon after their big day out, tried to influence proceedings, too, and Robbie Savage was booed throughout.

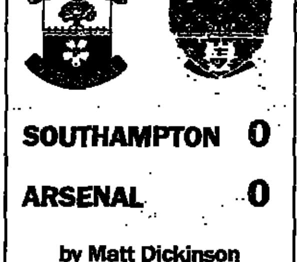
Savage was considered to have over-reacted when slapped by Justin Edinburgh during the final. The Tottenham defender was sent off and even O'Neill admitted that the player may have gilded his lily somewhat. So the boos were inevitable and O'Neill considered dropping Savage, but then decided it would be wrong to do so for reasons other than his own performance. It was a wise decision and Savage and Neil Lennon bossed the midfield.

O'Neill had no doubt that the fitness of Emile Heskey made all the difference. He struggled at Wembley with a painful back, but since then has been through a rigorous rehabilitation and on Saturday was close to his best. He is a rare breed, a forward that can make Sol Campbell appear to be delicate, and it was the England defender who he brushed aside to set up Tony Cottee for Leicester's second goal, Matt Elliott having given them the lead just before the interval.

Cottee thrives on such service, any service in fact, and this was his 200th league goal. His celebrations were modest, simple and an example to Mersey boys everywhere.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, L Young, J Edinburgh (sub: A Sinton, 74min) — R Fox (sub: C Armstrong, 87), A Nielsen, S Freund, D Ginola — L Ferdinand, S Iversen.
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, R Ullathorne — A Impey, M Izzet (sub: P Kaamark, 55), N Lennon, R Savage, S Guppy — A Cottee, E Heskey.
Referee: N Barry

Wenger raises the stakes in hassle over internationals



SOUTHAMPTON 0
ARSENAL 0
by Matt Dickinson

A FRUSTRATING afternoon had become an infuriating one for Arsène Wenger, so the Arsenal manager did what most people would in the circumstances. He took it out on someone else. On Saturday, that just happened to be the coaches of international teams, Kevin Keegan included, who will select his players for matches later this month that have no bearing on qualification for the European championship finals.

Wenger had already fired the first shot in what seems certain to become an intense battle by refusing to allow Kanu to play for Nigeria against Senegal and if he follows through with a threat to block England players from travelling to Hungary, the heavy artillery will really be engaged.

Wenger's concern is nothing to do with the bombs falling in neighbouring Serbia but the possible damage to hamstrings and groins.

"These [club versus country disputes] are not new problems," he said, "but they are worse because of the financial situation and because the clubs are much bigger than 20 years ago. It is more difficult now with the wages you pay to tell your players to go off for a friendly. I don't speak especially of Arsenal, I speak of all clubs.

"Eighty per cent of [international] games are uninteresting. You can't sell France against Armenia to 80,000 people and tell them it is interesting or Luxembourg against England in front of 75,000 people. You cannot convince me that is an interesting game."

Wenger's argument, which could soon result in clubs attempting to charge national associations for the hire of their star performers, will stand or fall on the patriotism of the players. Would Mark Hughes, for instance, put up with being told by his club that he can no longer play for Wales?

After almost 70 caps, the old warhorse appears to have given up hope of representing his country at a big tournament, but he is being a trifle premature. The Rugby World Cup comes to Great Britain this year, after all, and Wales could probably do with another muscular prop forward. By the end of this goalless tussle, Hughes had disturbed Tony Adams's serenity, dumped Patrick Vieira on the floor and gone 12 rounds with Martin Keown that could probably have done good business on pay-per-view. Sparky is as spikey as ever.

The shame is that such a magnificent player should, increasingly, have little else to offer. His statistics for this season read: games: 29; bookings: 15; goals: 0. It was difficult to know which was more predictable — the yellow card for a late lunge at Vieira or the squandering of Southampton's best chance of the afternoon.

Had Hughes scored instead of hitting the post after seven minutes, one suspects that Arsenal would never have recovered, because Southampton, taking their cue from Hughes, were in belligerent mood.

"We wanted to ruffle a few feathers," David Jones, the manager, admitted. "There was nothing dirty about what we did. It was just a good, professional job."

Predictably, Wenger saw things slightly differently. "They put the ball up in the air and fought for it," he said, more with disdain than admiration. Either way, the pattern of play was not to the liking of Nicolas Anelka or Kanu, in particular, whose spells at Ajax and Internazionale cannot have prepared him for a scrap down at The Dell.

With Dennis Bergkamp absent, struck down by a virus, it was only the Nigerian's second start for Arsenal and this was not the sort of game for gentle acclimatisation.

"Welcome to England," Wenger said of his loping forward, who was buffeted to the periphery of the exchanges by the excellent Ken Monkou.

Kanu missed Arsenal's best opportunity in the 69th minute, when he shot straight at Francis Benali on the goal-line, and he is likely to return to his substitute's role tomorrow when Blackburn Rovers visit Highbury.

Bergkamp should have recovered in time and his stronger physique will be needed in another match that will not be for the squeamish.

Arsenal will hope also that Marc Overmars has recovered from his blistered feet, because Kaba Diawara, who made his full debut, is still very raw. "This was two points dropped," Wenger admitted, but for Southampton, it was definitely one gained.

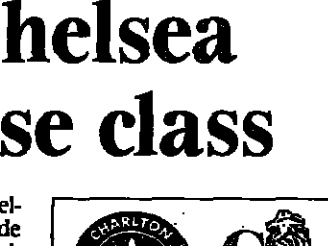
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): N Moss — S Hiley, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, P Colleter — S Ripley (sub: F Benali, 65min), J Dodd, D Hughes, W Bridge — M Hughes, E Ostenstad (sub: J Beattie, 54).
ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, T Adams, M Keown (sub: S Bould, 86), N Winterburn — F Ljungberg (sub: L Boa Morte, 65), R Parlour, P Vieira, K Diawara (sub: N Vivas, 77) — Kanu, N Anelka.
Referee: P Jones

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Mark Hughes, as combative if not as productive as of old, hurdles Vieira's tackle in the stalemate at The Dell

Vialli cautious as Chelsea impose class



CHARLTON ATHLETIC 0
CHELSEA 1
by Russell Kempson

GIANLUCA VIALLI, the Chelsea player-manager, strode into the press room at The Valley and sat at the table. Wearing a grey, V-necked sweater, with the top button of his shirt undone and his tie in a large knot, he looked like a shy schoolboy about to be scolded. Only the bald pate and goatee beard gave it away.

Vialli spoke in his usual, quiet, studious manner, almost veering towards the apologetic in tone and giving away little in his fractured English. Victory against Charlton Athletic might have closed the gap at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, with Manchester United and Arsenal having been held to draws and Chelsea holding a game in hand, but it would be premature and uncouth to gloat.

"So, you're back in the hunt for the title?" a bold soul ventured. "No, I still don't think so," Vialli replied. "We are still in third place and there are two great teams in front. They have more experience and they won't throw away the chance of winning the title."

Results and tables 31

He denied that he was indulging in the pyschological banter so well practised by Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger, his counterparts at United and Arsenal, and only when pressed would he concede the merest glimpse of the championship crown. "If we win our game in hand," he said. "If, if — but it is difficult."

It is difficult to imagine a greater contrast between manager and chairman — Vialli, a humble man from a privileged background, and Ken Bates, the chairman, a grizzly bear with a permanently sore head. Earlier in the week, while paying tribute to Charlton's valiant struggle against relegation, Bates stated bluntly: "At the end of the day, class should tell — and we've got more class than them."

Truth often hurts and class did tell, with Charlton's Premiership adventure perhaps drawing to a painful conclusion. They outpointed Chelsea in many areas, mainly through physical endeavour, created several chances through patient and precise approach play and scrapped and fought until their fingernails were raw.

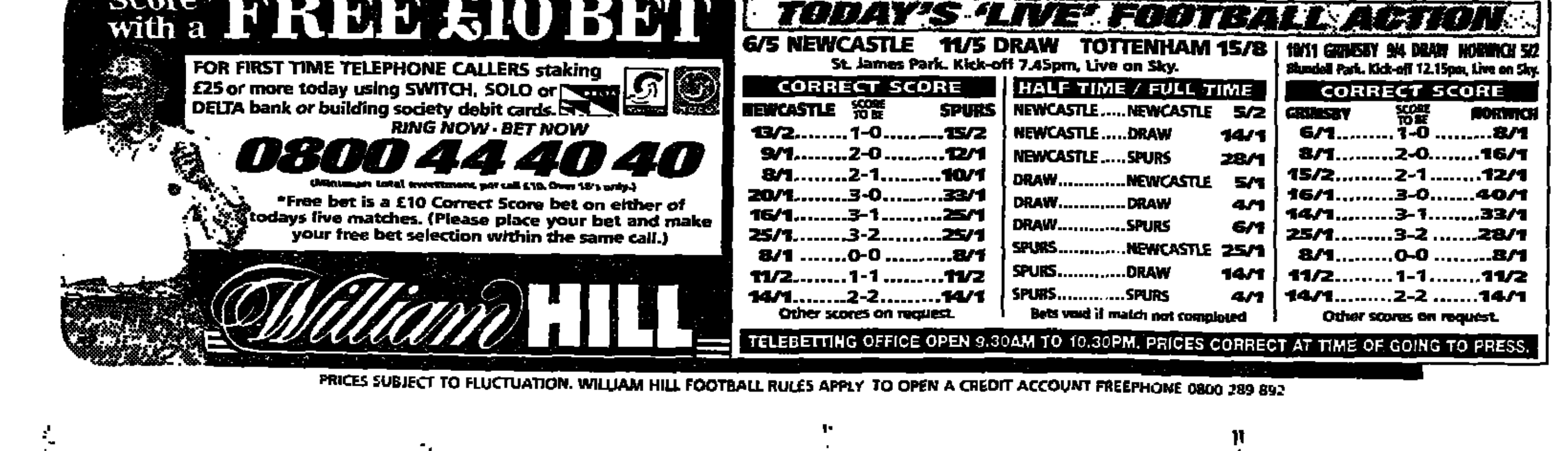
None of it, though, could bridge the gulf. Chelsea ran when they needed to, challenged when they smelt danger and strolled when the heat was off. Desailly, on his return from European championship duty with France, performed with a swagger that encapsulated everything that Charlton lacked. His presence was immense, his play immaculate.

The goal, in the eleventh minute, illustrated the chasm. Ilic, the Charlton goalkeeper, called to catch Ferrer's cross. Tiler, his team-mate, did not trust him and tried to head clear and Di Matteo drove in the loose ball, albeit with a mis-hit. "It was a howler," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said, "and we've done that all too often this season."

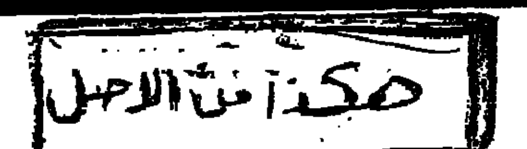
Ilic, a Serb, had defied a call from the Yugoslav FA to boycott domestic matches while the Balkan conflict remains unresolved. He said his piece in a dignified manner in the match programme — not for him the tub-thumping, banner-waving protest of Sasa Curcic, the Crystal Palace midfield player, the previous weekend — and played well, making good saves from Flo and Wise.

He also wore a black armband. "He felt he had to do something," Curbishley said. "Some of his friends and family are in Belgrade. He was a bit upset at first, but he was OK after that. Unfortunately, he got caught up in the situation for the goal."

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-4-3): S Ilic — R Rufus, S Brown, C Tiler — D Mills (sub: J Barnes, 54min), M Kinsella, G Stuart, C Powell (sub: S Jones, 81) — J Robinson, C Mendonca (sub: A Hunt, 77), M Pringle.
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey (sub: K Hitchcock, 46) — A Ferrer, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — B Goldbaek, J Morris (sub: G Poyet, 69), D Wise, R Di Matteo (sub: M Duberry, 85) — T A Flo, G Zola.
Referee: R Harris



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O'Leary's charges revive era of Revie



LEEDS UNITED 3
NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1

by George Caulkin

IT IS a touch ironic that David O'Leary should profess such a cursory interest in the powers of psychology, for here is a football manager mired in the depths of denial. The men in white coats would doubtless have a field day with such a fascinating patient; the men in white shirts already do.

Can Leeds United qualify for a place in the European Cup? "Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal are entitled to be in the top three." Is O'Leary not making a subtle attempt to deflect the pressure onto his nearest rivals. "I'm not an intelligent man like Arsène Wenger. I'm not into all the rubbish." Well, no, of course not. Perish the thought.

O'Leary, the analysts might say, inhabits a world of blissful fantasy. His youthful side have won their past seven FA Carling Premiership matches — equalling a post-war record set by Don Revie's definitive United team 26 years ago — and, with each, his claims that fundamental restructuring is required ring more hollow.

He means it, of course, yet his players keep feinting and flicking their way beyond the opposition, breathing down the neck of Chelsea, in third place, — now just two points distant, although with a game in hand — and generally making his life a misery. At this rate, how will he convince his directors to loosen the purse-strings this summer?

The answer may not be too long in coming, given that Leeds's seven-game run-in includes matches against the trio immediately above them. Even if the championship is not a realistic option, Leeds are duty-bound to play a vital role in the final outcome.

In the meantime, they continue to play hard, finding the necessary gear to cruise past Nottingham Forest on Saturday but expending little obvious effort. Ron Atkinson, the Forest manager, maintained his innocence in the shadow of the gallows — "for long periods, we were the better team" — but Leeds roused themselves when they had to.

An otherwise ordinary first-half was illuminated by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's seventeenth goal of the season, stepping beyond Johnson and Chettle before striking home powerfully from the fringes of the penalty area, and although Forest equalised in the 53rd minute — Alan Rogers directing a volley beyond Martyn — they remained brittle.

United regained the lead quickly, a foul by Gough enabling Ian Harte to score with a firm free kick, while, in the 83rd minute, the excellent Alan Smith hooked a corner by Harte, headed back to him by Woodgate, into the net. There was time aplenty for Carlton Palmer to receive his annual red card at Elland Road for two raking tackles on Bowyer.

"A lovely sniffer's goal," O'Leary called Smith's eighth in 11 first-team starts, which, considering the events on Merseyside, was perhaps not the most sympathetic term. If, as a topic of conversation, the subject did not infuriate him so, it would have been tempting to describe it as a Freudian slip. Psychologically speaking.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3) N Martyn — J Woodgate D Wetherall, L Radebe, I Harte — L Bowyer, D Hopkin, B Ribeiro — H Kewell (sub. M Jones, 90min), A Smith, J F Hasselbaink

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-3) M Crossley — C Edwards, R Gough, S Chettle — T Bonalair, A Johnson C Palmer, A Rogers, S Stensaas (sub: H Porfirio 81) — M Harewood, D Freedman (sub N Shipperley, 66)

Referee: P Alcock.

FA Carling Premiership: United captain underlines his value



Beckham, partly obscured by Cole, forces home Manchester United's equaliser with Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, for once powerless to intervene. Photograph: Tom Hevezi

Keane's determination dispels early lethargy

WIMBLEDON 1
MANCHESTER UNITED 1

by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

BLIGHTED by financial ruin, contaminated by the stench of decaying dreams, Selhurst Park made a poignantly incongruous setting for Manchester United's final outing before their most important game for 30 years.

As Juventus succumbed 1-0 in the similarly humble surroundings of Empoli, Serie A's bottom club, United prepared for the visit of the Italian champions to Old Trafford on Wednesday night with this cloyingly unsatisfactory draw in the depths of South London.

Juventus, slipping towards mid-table, have nothing left to play for in their domestic league. United, though, were stuck in a no man's land between fending off their title challengers and saving themselves for the first leg of the European Cup semi-final.

It showed. For the opening 20 minutes, they were almost catatonic. Gary Neville's headed back-pass was intercepted by Jason Euell and expertly converted in the fifth minute — and Wimbledon should have gone further ahead.

Peter Schmeichel kicked a clearance straight at John Hartson, Denis Irwin played a pass across the back four that went to Marcus Gayle, who should have taken advantage, and Schmeichel had to be at his sharpest to stop Euell after Hartson had wrestled Ronny Johnsen aside.

Then, United snapped out of it. For the rest of the game, they worked like dervishes. At times, the siege of the Wimbledon goal was almost comical, a pinball game of madly rebounding shots and blocks and a sprinkling of wonderful saves from Neil Sullivan.

United's only reward was the equaliser that they scored on the stroke of half-time. Irwin, who had suffered his share of embarrassment at the hands of Gayle, nutmegged Michael Hughes and drove in a cross that Dean Blackwell could only spoon into the air off his thigh. When the ball dropped, David Beckham was first to it, volleying into the corner of the net.

When the final whistle blew, the United players stared at the floor, kicked sods out of the pitch and generally looked glum. They have not lost for 20 games now, but although Arsenal did not get any nearer to them, Chelsea have re-emerged as significant challengers.

Predictably, perhaps, the only United player who rose above the average was Roy Keane. Their captain was superb, a model of unstinting industry and aggression, urging his teammates on so tirelessly, so furiously, that it could have been the European Cup final itself that he was playing in. It was in his duel with Robbie Earle and Jason Euell, who were both outstanding for the home side, that provided the most uplifting part of the afternoon.

As United prepare to try to move a step closer towards the goal that has driven them on for so many years, Earle's assessment of Keane's growing maturity boded well for their chances. "He is the best midfield player in the country, without any doubt," Earle said. "He has got the edge on Patrick Vieira because you can't rattle him, you can't wind him up like you can with Vieira. Maybe a couple of years ago, but not any more.

"The responsibility of being captain has helped him mature as a person and a player. He doesn't question himself like I think he used to when Paul Ince was at Old Trafford. Ince used to call himself 'the guv'nor' and I don't think Keane liked that because that is how he saw himself. Now he is, without any question.

"Since the bad knee injury he got last season, he has reassessed himself, like you have to. He sits and holds in front of the defence, dictating the play. He is without question their most influential player.

"At one point, he even apologised to me after coming in a bit late. That took me by surprise. Two years ago, I would have reacted to him and then he would have been in my face and he would have got into trouble."

Against Juventus, United will rise far beyond the level they reached against Wimbledon's rudderless side. Ryan Giggs, an idle substitute on Saturday, will almost certainly replace Jesper Blomqvist and Jaap Stam should return from injury.

Selhurst Park and its myriad frustrations will be forgotten in an instant when Juventus run out in their black and white shirts. There will be no half measures, no catatonia, on Wednesday night.

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3). N Sullivan — B Thatcher, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble (sub: N Ardley, 81min) — J Euell, R Earle, C Hughes (sub. A Roberts, 82) — M Hughes, M Gayle, J Hartson (sub: C Cort, 68)

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, R Johnsen, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, J Blomqvist (sub. O G Solskjaer, 73) — A Cole, D Yorke

Referee: G Barber.

Kidd gets sympathy but no help from old pals



BLACKBURN ROVERS 0
MIDDLESBROUGH 0

by Steve Wood

BRIAN KIDD, the Blackburn Rovers manager, says that his team "cannot afford to look too far into the distance" as they strive to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership, yet their seven remaining fixtures appear so treacherous that the two points dropped against Middlesbrough on Saturday could prove to be extremely costly.

Blackburn, only a point clear of the relegation places, are left with trips to Arsenal, Southampton, Charlton Athletic and Newcastle United and have home dates with Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Manchester United.

Kidd does not need to have the situation spelt out to him — indeed, he chastises the outsiders who remind him of the seriousness of his team's plight — but the fact is that Blackburn need ten more points to be anything like safe and the stakes, whether Kidd likes it or not, will keep rising.

Although he can become prickly, he must be admired for the way that he is trying to throw a protective arm around his players. "I have never understood all that pressure stuff," he said again on Saturday, "but if there is some, it will come on me and I will make sure the players relax."

Alas, Blackburn's efforts against Middlesbrough, a team that needed two recent victories to allay their own relegation worries, bordered on the tortuous. Kidd said that "quality in and around the box let us down". Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, singled out the efforts of Gary Pallister, who was coached by Kidd and captained by Robson when the trio were at Old Trafford.

Pallister retains the priceless ability to read the play and frustrate opponents. Chris Sutton, a player adept at backing into his marker, got no change out the Middlesbrough centre back. Then again, Sutton, who withdrew from the England squad against Poland, was clearly not fit.

Ashley Ward and Callum Davidson went close, with a header and fizzing shot respectively, but only Matt Jansen, the England Under-21 forward, hinted at the subtlety required to find a way through such a stubborn defence.

Middlesbrough were similarly stupefying in attack until Paul Gascoigne was introduced. The crowd laughed when the midfield player failed to control a simple pass, but they held their breath as he went close to scoring in the final minute with a wonderful free kick from 30 yards, which struck the bar. After only 22 minutes of action, Gascoigne appeared to be in need of a lie-down, but perhaps that was as much to do with the general air of mediocrity as with his lack of fitness.

Before they left Lancashire, Pallister and Robson both spoke of Kidd as a great coach, a good person, a diligent worker. They hoped he would take Blackburn out of trouble. It was all so platitudinous.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3) J Filan — J McAteer, S Henchoz, D Peacock, C Davidson — D Johnson, D Marcolin (sub L Carsley, 60min), J Wilcox — M Jansen (sub. K Davies, 85), C Sutton, A Ward

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2). M Schwarzer — R Stockdale, C Cooper, G Pallister, D Gordon — N Maddison (sub: P Gascoigne, 68), M Summerbell, A Townsend (sub K O'Neill, 77), C Harrison — B Deane, H Ricard

Referee: A Wilkie.

Wednesday sit back as Coventry step forward

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1
COVENTRY CITY 2

by Peter Robinson

THERE are some things that, simply, you do not do in life: argue with a policeman; serve potatoes with custard; holiday in Eastbourne before the age of 83; move to Rockall. You know it's silly, you don't do it.

Does anybody stand in front of Mike Tyson and say to his face: "You're a nutter, a complete ... etc etc"? Of course not. Does anyone admit to liking British Rail food? No. So why does Joe Public scan the league tables each Easter and say: "Look at Coventry City, they're in trouble, they could go down?"

No they won't, they never do. They flirt with relegation, they flash their pretty little eyelashes at it, lift their hem an inch or two, blush, let it buy them a drink and then tell it that, after all that effort, they'd rather not, all the same, but perhaps next time.

And the next time comes, and the next, and every year people fall for it, and on Saturday you could wonder only at the predictability of it all. No matter that Sheffield Wednesday are a decent side on their day, here they were handing over three points like granny with her chocolate eggs.

"It was a funny game, really," Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said afterwards. "You have seen two teams not playing well." So Coventry played badly and won, the sign of a team that is staying up, and Wednesday played badly and lost, for the fifth time in a row, the sign of a team that could go down.

It is far too early to say, of course. The Easter programme is only halfway through and making a judgment before Coventry entertain Southampton today and Sheffield cross the Pennines to Everton is premature, at best ... but, well, Coventry will not be relegated, surely, and they showed why at Hillsborough. Whatever weaknesses that they might have, they know how to win, albeit occasionally. Moreover, in Whelan and Huckerby, they have very good strikers who score goals.

Huckerby paved the way for their first, after 18 minutes, breaking free of a careless defence before being felled by Srnicek. McAllister converted the penalty, Srnicek was lucky not to be sent off.

Wednesday reorganised at half-time and equalised shortly after it when Rudi turned in Carbone's bicycle kick. They had chances to win, too, but, with the end nigh, stood back and watched as Huckerby crossed from the right and Whelan tapped the ball home.

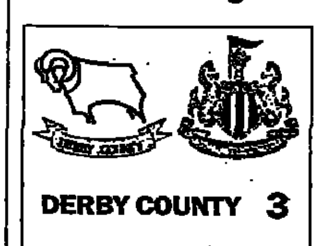
Strachan knew that his team had been lucky, but was not complaining. Danny Wilson, his opposite number, had reason to but had more pressing things on his mind — a neck injury to Walker, for instance, that threatens his participation against Everton and therefore his record of starting every league match this season for Wednesday, one that he shares with Atherton, Thome and Jonk. Now would be a bad time to lose him.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-1-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker (sub. J Newsome, 45min), L Briscoe — N Alexandersson, W Jonk (sub: P Scott, 90), P Rudi — B Carbone — R Cresswell, D Humphreys (sub: D Sonner, 45).

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2). M Hedman — G Breen, R Shaw, P Williams, M Edworthy — G Boateng, G McAllister (sub P Clement, 90), P Telfer, S Froggatt — D Huckerby, N Whelan.

Referee: K Burge.

Keegan's spirit returns to haunt Derby



DERBY COUNTY 3
NEWCASTLE UNITED 4

by Richard Hobson

NOBODY would mistake Ruud Gullit and Kevin Keegan in an identity parade, but on Saturday Newcastle United bore an uncanny resemblance to the Toon constructed fearlessly by the temporary England manager. Unfortunately for the nerves of the travelling support, comparisons grew to be as valid in defence as in attack.

Going forward, Newcastle might have equalled anything seen in the FA Carling Premiership this season. With Ketsbaia and Maric peeling off the Derby County back three purposefully, Speed breaking from midfield and Hughes sweeping along the right, the confused performances that undermined Gullit's credentials in his formative days at St James's Park became increasingly hard to recall.

True, Derby defended as carelessly as the visitors and two of the goals relied upon deflections. Dabizas, too, might have seen red rather than yellow when he needlessly pulled back Baiano to concede a penalty early on. Yet, ultimately, they were worthy winners.

Jim Smith, the Derby manager, suggested that Newcastle played with such freedom because they know qualification for the Uefa Cup was assured. That this could happen

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by reaching the FA Cup semi-finals has provoked ridicule in certain quarters. However, if the best aspects of their performance at Pride Park are reproduced next Sunday, and the worst are corrected, then Newcastle can make the issue academic by overcoming Tottenham Hotspur. Those who negotiated England's representation next season must be rooting for them to ease what ought to be considerable embarrassment.

By coincidence, Newcastle entertain Tottenham today and while Gullit suggested on Saturday that he will not become involved in mind games with George Graham, some of his comments later suggested he has started already. There was nothing to hide from the Tottenham manager, Gullit said, only for coyness to prevail over the possibility that Alan Shearer and Duncan Ferguson will return.

Smith dismissed with a gruff chuckle the notion that Derby themselves are now viable candidates for Europe. They have conceded eight goals in the past two matches and badly missed the physical presence of the suspended Daryl Powell. After Burton gave Derby the lead, they allowed Speed a free header to equalise and a clear view of too much of the goal to convert a free kick aftr Baiano's penalty.

They were punished, too, for allowing Ketsbaia the time to shoot before half-time, when Solano also hit a post. Solano himself was unmarked when he met Ketsbaia's cross with a firm, controlled volley to extend the lead and although Wanchope headed beyond Given in injury time, the minutes had run out for Derby.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R Hoult — S Prior, H Carbonari (sub: P Wanchope, 43min), J Laursen — V Borbokis, S Schnoor (sub: D Sturridge, 81), L Bohinen, A Dorigo — F Baiano — D Burton, M Beck.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — A Hughes, L Charvet, N Dabizas, A Griffin — N Solano (sub: G Brady, 63), R Lee, G Speed, D Domi — S Maric (sub. L Saha, 78), T Ketsbaia.

Referee: D Gallagher

Le Tissier's return gives Southampton welcome boost



Hinchcliffe: back strain

By Bill Edgar

THEIR unbroken spells in the top flight of English football comprise a combined 53 seasons, yet their traditional pose at the summit has been as figures clinging to the mountain edge by their fingernails. Coventry City and Southampton have rarely mixed with the championship challengers and this campaign has been no exception. Pair them in a league match over Easter and the result is more or less guaranteed: a relegation battle.

Coventry have begun the annual test of their immunity to the drop in encouraging fashion, collecting ten points from five games in the FA Carling Premiership since calculations of safety targets began to be made in earnest. Their optimism for staying up is increased by the away record of Southampton, who visit Highfield Road this afternoon. The team with the lowest goal tally in the Premiership and Nationwide League will be seeking only their second win away from The Dell this season.

Victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Saturday put Coventry four points clear of Southampton, who are third from bottom with seven games remaining. However, the Hampshire side, who earned a creditable home draw against Arsenal at the weekend, will be heartened by the return from suspension of three midfield players — Matthew Le Tissier, Hassan Kachloul and Chris Marsden. Marian Pahars, the Latvia international, is also in contention to make his debut.

An equally tense game can be expected at Goodison Park, where Everton and Wednesday will also be keen to improve on their perilous positions close to the bottom. Like Coventry and Southampton, they are in a familiar position, having fought a relegation encounter at the same ground last April, when Everton lost 3-1 but eventually escaped demotion on goal difference.

Defeat by Liverpool on Saturday meant that Everton have gathered just nine points from 13 league games between Christmas and Easter, but Wednesday's form is no better. Having lost their past five matches, they will be keen for Andy Hinchcliffe to recover from a back strain in time to face his former team. Des Walker, his fellow defender, is also a doubt, hampered by a neck problem.

Charlton Athletic's remarkable revival has faltered recently and they will be chasing a first victory in five games when they visit West Ham United today. Their attempt to climb out of the bottom three will be helped if, as expected, Rio Ferdinand has not recovered from the ankle injury that he sustained during West Ham's goalless draw against Aston Villa on Friday.

Nottingham Forest, who "need a few snookers" to survive, according to Ron Atkinson, their manager, may struggle to trouble Liverpool, who won 5-1 when the teams met at Anfield earlier in the season. The return from suspension of Pierre van Hooijdonk and Chris Bart-Williams is unlikely to help avoid defeat for a team that has lost its past six home games.

Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur, the latter guaranteed a Uefa Cup place next season and the former almost so, get a chance to size each other up before their FA Cup semi-final meeting at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Middlesbrough are away to Wimbledon, with Paul Gascoigne returning to the starting line-up after he began the away game with Blackburn Rovers at the weekend on the substitutes' bench.

Rushden suffer for late lapses

Rushden and Diamonds ... 1
Cheltenham Town 2

By Keith Pike

THEY are the Manchester United of non-league football: the club with the best stadium, wealthiest benefactor and only fully-professional squad good enough to take Leeds United to an FA Cup replay. But since when did biggest automatically equal best? When the Nationwide Conference season ends, all that may count for nothing for the want of 120 seconds' more composure.

For 88 minutes on Saturday, Rushden and Diamonds were the sharper and stronger team as the two best defences in the Conference locked horns with the most prolific attacks. Then their world fell apart.

Victory would have left Rushden as masters of their own destiny. Instead, it is Cheltenham Town who know that maximum points from their last seven games will bring league football to Gloucestershire for the first time. It is a tough ask. With cup commitments, they face ten games in 27 days, starting today against Kidderminster Harriers and, unlike Rushden, they are genuine part-timers.

Yet whatever their status there is no doubt that the momentum is now firmly with Steve Cotterill's team. "We haven't got the largest squad," he said, "but the players have been magnificent."

As many as 1,000 were locked out of a match that attracted 6,132, the biggest crowd in the Conference this season. Those that got in saw De Souza scramble Rushden's opener in the 21st minute, an advantage that Cheltenham rarely threatened to erase.

Then, with two minutes to go, a short-corner routine caught Rushden napping and a cross by Duff was headed in at the far post by Freeman. Rushden were then left in disbelief as Freeman released Brough and Grayson prodded in a momentous winner.

RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS (3-5-2): M Smith — J Rodwell, D Bradshaw, G Branston — T Wooding, M McElhatton, C Heggs, M Cooper, P Underwood — D Collins, M De Souza

CHELTENHAM TOWN (3-5-2): S Book — J Brough, C Banks, N Howarth (sub: M Freeman, 63min) — M Duff, D Norton, R Bloomer (sub: R Milton, 83), L Howells, J Victory — N Grayson, D Bailey (sub: K Knight, 74).

Referee: S French

Nationwide League: Burley hails team as Swindon take heavy beating

Rampant Ipswich recall glory years

Swindon Town 0
Ipswich Town 6

By David Powell

TYPICAL of the beaten football manager's refusal to acknowledge a gulf in class, Jimmy Quinn had insisted that his Swindon Town team were not four goals worse than Queens Park Rangers in their last match. This time he knew the argument would not wash. So he went the other way.

"Six flattered us, it could have been ten," Quinn said. Ipswich Town, producing a performance of rare quality for a Nationwide League first division side, should have broken their club record for league a victory. It remains 7-0, against Portsmouth [1964], Southampton [1974] and West Bromwich Albion [1976].

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, played in the last two of those, and in a 6-0 victory away to Notts County in 1982. Those were the days of Thijssen and Wark, Mariner and Mills, memories fresh from lifting the FA Cup and Uefa Cup, of a slick Ipswich passing game.

The control, the accuracy, on Saturday was reminiscent of Ipswich in their pomp, though Burley declined to draw comparisons. Yet he did not keep the lid shut on the superlatives. "A magnificent performance from start to finish," Burley said. "A tremendous achievement, but it was not just the goals, it was the manner in which we played. It would have graced any Premiership ground."

The man advantage enjoyed by Ipswich for 83 minutes eased the path and Quinn was furious. "You cannot legislate for an outfield player thinking he is a goalkeeper," Quinn said after Craig Taylor had been sent off for using his hands to keep out a shot by Matt Holland. Such emergency action near the end, with a lead to protect, may provide a different argument. After seven minutes, it was foolish.

Mark Venus struck the first of his two penalties and Ipswich, with James Scowcroft, Tony Mowbray and Jamie Clapham also contributing goals, were five up in 62 minutes. Fabian Wilnis added a sixth after 75 minutes, but, either side of his goal, David Johnson was profligate with four chances.

At other times, Richard Naylor allowed himself to be tackled after going clean through and Jimmy Glass made good saves from Clapham and Johnson. These may yet count against Ipswich, who have scored nine fewer goals than Bradford City, their main challengers for the second automatic promotion place.

Ipswich claimed their 28th point out of 33 played since they lost to Sunderland and Quinn can see why. This was football as it is meant to be played.

For Swindon, the slide from mid-table continues with a fourth successive defeat and, while admitting his team's shortcomings, Quinn slipped in a line of self-defence. "We were third from bottom when I came here," Quinn said. He has picked them up once. Can he do it again? Huddersfield Town are the opponents today, which is where Quinn came in last October.

SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2): J Glass — D Linton, B Borrows (sub: R Hulbert, 46min), A Reeves, S Davis (sub: C Hay, 78) — R Howe, C Taylor, G Hall, T Gooden — I Onuora, S Bradley (sub: M Walters, 64)

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — A Tanner (sub: J Cundy, 57), A Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, M Stockwell (sub: R Naylor, 71), J Magilton, M Holland, J Clapham — J Scowcroft (sub: M Holster, 77), D Johnson.

Referee: P Rejer.



Wilnis, left, has good reason to celebrate after scoring the sixth goal that completed his team's destruction of Swindon Town

Phillips turns up volume control

Sunderland 3
West Bromwich Albion 0

By Bill Edgar

THE mist that shrouded the Stadium of Light soon became their only hope. Unable to cope with waves of attacks, West Bromwich Albion would have welcomed a thickening of the fog and a merciful abandonment. The elements showed them no compassion, but their eventual defeat was no cause for gloom: Sunderland have long been out of sight at the top of the Nationwide League first division.

If vision was slightly impaired, the sound of the home support was emphatic. The bowl-like ground helps to keep noise levels high and it is no wonder that in 43 League matches played in the stadium during its short history, only three visiting teams have overcome such intimidation to emerge victorious.

Sunderland supporters now turn up more in expectation than hope. Within 90 seconds, their team had forced two goalmouth scrambles, won three corners, hit a post and been denied a penalty for pushing. Thereafter, only a series of fine saves by Phil Whitehead prevented a repeat of the seven-goal rout to which he was a party while playing on this ground earlier in the season when with Oxford United.

The championship that should soon be Sunderland's will have been achieved despite the handicap of injuries to key players, notably Lee Clark and Kevin Phillips, who have both missed more than three months of this campaign.

On Saturday, Clark scored the second goal, from 25 yards, while Phillips took his tally to 17 this season with a long-range shot in the 25th minute and a header just after half-time. "The atmosphere was tremendous," he said. "If you can't enjoy playing in that, you can't enjoy anything."

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, J Craddock, P Butler, M Gray — N Summerbee, K Ball (sub: D Holloway, 78min), L Clark, A Johnston (sub: M Bridges, 74) — N Quinn (sub: D Dichio, 61), K Phillips

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-1-1): P Whitehead — D Gabbidon, S Murphy, M Carbon, G Potter — J Quinn (sub: M Angel, 42), M Bortolazzi, J van Blerk, K Kilbane — R Sneekes (sub: F De Freitas, 46) — L Hughes

Referee: G Cain

Sharpe makes his mark

Bradford City 3
Grimsby Town 0

By Martin Woods

ABSOLUTELY, completely, utterly. Thus spoke Lee Sharpe about his first goal for his new club on his home debut when admitting his scoring shot was a miskick.

A top-of-the-range miskick, as it happens, for it put the home side 2-0 up and settled their nerves just when it seemed that Grimsby might salvage something from a game strangled by that peculiar tension that afflicts those involved in a promotion contest. Not that Paul Jewell, the Bradford manager, has made aethetics a priority, for he is acutely aware that this promotion contest is not about beauty. "We were rather nervous today for the first time," he said.

Robbie Blake gave City the lead after 11 minutes when, from a long punt by Gary Walsh, the Bradford goalkeeper, Jamie Lawrence challenged Andy Love, the Grimsby goalkeeper, and Blake fired in his fifteenth goal of the season.

Sharpe, on loan until the end of the season from Leeds United, having spent three forgettable months with Sampodoria, scored in the 76th minute when he embarrassed Love with his close-range miskick from an acute angle from Peter Beagrie's left-wing cross.

In injury time, Beagrie curled a free kick from just outside the Grimsby penalty area sweetly into the top right-hand corner of the goal.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — L Todd (sub: L Sharpe, 45min), D Moore, A Westwood, W Jacobs — J Lawrence, S McCall, G Whalley, P Beagrie — R Blake (sub: A O'Brien, 86), L Mills (sub: D Windass, 44)

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A Love — J McDermott, P Handyside, R Smith (sub: S Livingstone, 56), T Gallimore — K Donovan, S Caldicott, P Groves, K Black (sub: W Burnett, 73) — J Lester (sub: L Ashcroft, 63), L Nogan

Referee: G Laws.

Bolton grateful to Banks

Oxford United 0
Bolton Wanderers 0

By Nick Szczepanik

EVEN their own supporters must feel that promotion to the FA Carling Premiership for the third time in five seasons would be the most mixed of blessings for Bolton Wanderers. Immediate relegation followed both previous promotions and one cannot help thinking that it would be third time unlucky if they were to squeak up again.

The team that scored 100 goals on its way to the 1996-97 first division championship could not survive, so what hope is there for the present squad? They have won only one of their past eight games and on Saturday were spared embarrassment at the hands of a team 15 places below them only by wayward finishing and the inspired form of Steve Banks, their goalkeeper.

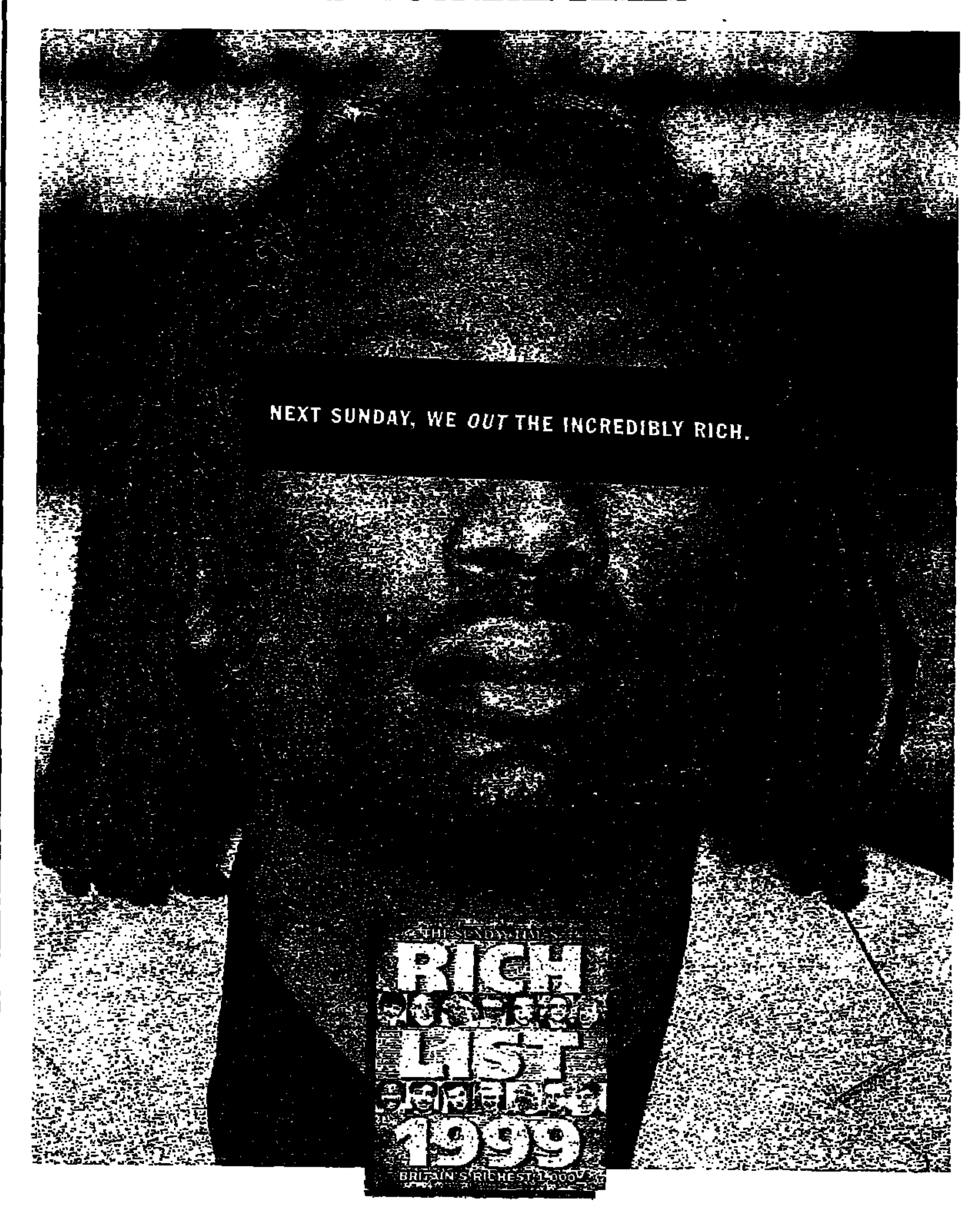
Scoring a goal of their own was never a possiblity. Colin Todd, the manager, admitted that Bolton were lucky to get a point, but there is little evidence that any of the chasing pack are capable of denying them a place in the play-offs.

Oxford, although still in considerable relegation danger, seemed to be improving on and off the pitch. They would have celebrated the arrival of Firoz Kassam, their new owner, with a second successive victory but for Banks, signed from Blackpool on transfer deadline day for a cut-price £50,000, who made outstanding saves from Matt Murphy and Kevin Francis.

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2): P Lundin — L Robinson, M Watson, P Gilchrist, P Powell — M Murphy, M Gray, P Tait, N Banger — K Francis, A Thomson (sub: M Williams, 79min)

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): S Banks — N Cox, M Fish, P Warhurst, J Phillips — M Johansen, P Frandsen, A Todd, J Fullarton (sub: R Gardner 67) — E Gudjohnsen (sub: B Hansen, 78), D Holdsworth

Referee: A Bates.



Cooke keeps City hopes simmering

Manchester City 1
Wigan Athletic 0

By A Correspondent

A MEDIOCRE performance, one decisive goalkeeping oddity in their favour and three points secured — the very essence of promotion form which may yet see Manchester City take their place in the Nationwide League first division automatically next season.

However, it was with relief rather than rapture that City's huge following greeted the final whistle that sounded a narrow victory over Wigan. The nerve of both players and supporters will be tested again today during the encounter with the team most likely to deny them that vital second place, Preston North End.

City have emerged as contenders by virtue of a run that has witnessed one defeat in 17 league matches. For the past 14 of those, Joe Royle, the manager, has had the services of Terry Cooke, a winger, on loan from Manchester United, who scored his fourth goal in as many games on Saturday after an astonishing error by Roy Carroll, the Wigan goalkeeper.

In the 52nd minute, Carroll advanced to claim a pass from Jamie Pollock', but, aware that his momentum would carry him out of the penalty area, he dropped the ball that he had just caught, inviting Cooke to shoot home, which he did.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): N Weaver — L Crooks, G Wiekens, T Vaughan, R Edghill — T Cooke, (sub: K Horlock, 66min), J Pollock, I Bishop, M Brown — S Goater, P Dickov (sub: D Allsopp, 21)

WIGAN ATHLETIC (5-3-2): R Carroll — C Bradshaw, P McGibbon, C Greenall, S Balmer, K Sharpe — D Lee (sub: I Kilford, 73), A Porter, M O'Neill — S Barlow, G Jones (sub: D Lowe, 73)

Referee: S Baines.

McFarland ready for happy returns

Cambridge United 0
Cardiff City 0

By Andy Stephens

YOU would not need to be a rocket scientist to know what Roy McFarland, the Cambridge United manager, wishes for when he shuts his eyes and blows out the candles on his birthday cake this evening. Promotion as champions of the Nationwide League third division will do very nicely, thank you.

Cardiff City were in no mood to offer McFarland, who is 51 today, any early gifts at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday, but the Welsh club — the league leaders — will have derived less pleasure from the final scoreline, for it means that Cambridge, two points behind them but with as many games in hand, remain favourites to secure the title.

McFarland acknowledged as much after a scrappy, goalless match, when he said: "Today was a point gained rather than two points lost. We've worked hard to get ourselves into a good position, but it will count for nothing unless we concentrate during the next five weeks."

Cardiff, marginally the better team on Saturday, almost snatched victory ten minutes from time when Bowen was narrowly denied — but who would he have been to spoil McFarland's party?

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-3-3): S Marshall — B Chenery, A Duncan, S Eustace, J Campbell — N Mustoe, P Wanless, I Ashbee — J Taylor (sub: R Walker, 80 min), M Butler, N McKenzie

CARDIFF CITY (4-4-2): J Hallworth — W O'Sullivan, M Ford, G Mitchell, J Eckhardt — A Legg, R Carpenter, J Fowler, D Hill (sub: C Middleton, 75) — J Bowen (sub: J Williams, 81), K Nugent

Referee: M Dean.

English are kept on their toes

OVERSEAS VIEW

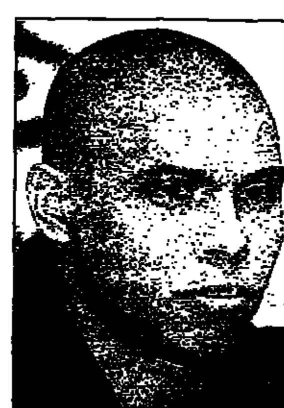
By Bill Edgar

DESPITE having spent five years in the European wilderness because of the post-Heysel ban and then taking nearly twice as long to recover from the absence, English clubs have still won more European trophies than any other country. Signs of a possible return to their pre-eminence, in the forms of Manchester United and Chelsea, may be timely if they are to retain historical superiority over the Italians, who have collected one cup fewer.

United's European Cup semi-final against Juventus this week is therefore significant in this context — and the omens from Italy over the weekend were good for the English. Visiting an Empoli team seven points adrift at the foot of Serie A, Juventus suffered their first defeat in seven matches since Carlo Ancelotti replaced Marcello Lippi as coach.

The Turin side, who play the first leg of their semi-final at Old Trafford on Wednesday, lost 1-0 to a goal in the 26th minute by Stefano Bianconi. Admittedly, Juventus rested Filippo Inzaghi and Antonio Conte before fielding them for the second half, but they were frustrated enough for Alessio Tacchinardi to be sent off eight minutes from time.

Even though Italy's European Cup allocation has been increased to four for next season, Juventus's only route to the competition may be to win it this season, as they are seven points below the qualification level in Serie A, in seventh place. Lazio extended their lead at the top to six points by drawing 0-0 at home to AC Milan, while Fiorentina, in second place, lost 2-0 away to Internazionale, for whom Ronaldo capped a fine display by scoring both goals from the penalty spot.



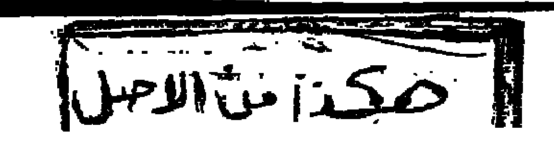
Ronaldo: both goals

Chelsea are likely to face a stubborn defence when Real Mallorca visit Stamford Bridge on Thursday for the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final. The Spaniards kept their remarkable record of having conceded only 21 league goals this season when they won 2-0 away to Villarreal yesterday, with late goals from Leo Biagini and Dani.

Mallorca remain sixth in a table led by Barcelona, who beat Real Oviedo 3-1 with a hat-trick from Rivaldo, of Brazil.

Like United, Bayern Munich remain on course for a treble of European Cup and domestic league and cup. The Germans, who travel to face Dynamo Kiev in the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday, are already through to the German cup final, in which they will face Werder Bremen, and, on Saturday, they extended their lead at the top of the Bundesliga to 15 points by recovering from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 away to Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern, who had won their past eight league matches without conceding a goal, fell behind to two strikes by Heiko Herrlich before half-time, but fought back through efforts from Alexander Zickler and Carsten Jancker. Sammy Kuffour, of Bayern, and Stefan Reuter, of Dortmund, were sent off in a match that also featured a missed penalty by Lars Ricken, of Dortmund. Bayer Leverkusen beat Kaiserslautern 1-0 to displace their hosts behind Bayern.



FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

BLACKBURN (0) 0 **MIDDLESBROUGH** (0) 0
27,482

Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, J McAteer, S Henchoz, D Peacock, C Davidson, D Johnson (sub: K Gillespie 61min), D Marcolin (sub: L Carsley 61), J Wilcox, C Sutton, M Jansen (sub: K Davies 88), A Ward.

Booked: Marcolin, McAteer.

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, R Stockdale, G Pallister, C Hanson, D Gordon, N Maddison (sub: P Gascoigne 69), C Cooper, M Summerbell, A Townsend (sub: K O'Neill 78), B Deane, H Ricard.

Booked: Stockdale, Summerbell, Gascoigne.

Referee: A Wilkie

CHARLTON (0) 0 **CHELSEA** (1) 1
20,046 Di Matteo 11

Charlton Athletic: S Ilic, D Mills (sub: J Barnes 55min), C Powell (sub: S Jones 81), R Rufus, M Kinsella, C Mendonca (sub: A Hunt 77), J Robinson, S Brown, C Tiler, M Pringle, G Stuart.

Booked: Stuart.

Chelsea: E De Goey (sub: K Hitchcock 46), A Ferrer, G Le Saux, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, R Di Matteo (sub: M Duberry 85), B Goldbaek, D Wise, J Morris (sub: G Poyet 70), T A Flo, G Zola.

Booked: Wise, Poyet. Referee: R Harris.

DERBY (2) 3 **NEWCASTLE** (3) 4
Burton 8 Speed 11, 24
Baiano 22 (pen) Ketsbaia 39
Wanchope 90 Solano 60
32,839

Derby County: R Hoult, H Carbonari (sub: P Wanchope 45min), S Schnoor (sub: D Sturridge 82), A Dorigo, L Bohinen, J Laursen, S Prior, V Borbokis, D Burton, M Beck, F Baiano.

Booked: Prior, Burton.

Newcastle United: S Given, A Griffin, L Charvet, A Hughes, N Dabizas, R Lee, G Speed, D Domi, N Solano (sub: G Brady 65), S Marić (sub: L Saha 79), T Ketsbaia.

Booked: Dabizas. Referee: D Gallagher.

LEEDS (1) 3 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 1
Hasselbaink 43 Rogers 53
Harte 60, Smith 84 39,645
Sent off: C Palmer (Nottingham Forest) 90

Leeds: N Martyn, J Woodgate, L Radebe, D Wetherall, I Harte, L Bowyer, D Hopkin, B Ribeiro, A Smith, J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell (sub: M Jones 89min).

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, R Gough, S Chettle, C Edwards, S Stensaas (sub: H Porfirio 81), A Johnson, C Palmer, T Bonalair, A Rogers, M Harewood, D Freedman (sub: N Shipperley 66).

Booked: Gough, Palmer, Porfirio, Bonalair.

Referee: P Alcock.

LIVERPOOL (2) 3 **EVERTON** (1) 2
Fowler 15 (pen), 21 Dacourt 1
Berger 82 Jeffers 84
44,852

Liverpool: D James, V Heggem (sub: S Gerrard 71min), R Song, S Staunton, D Matteo, S McManaman, J Redknapp, P Ince, P Berger, R Fowler (sub: K Riedle 85), M Owen.

Everton: T Myhre, C Short, D Watson, M Materazzi (sub: D Weir 45), M Ball, S Gemmill, O Dacourt, D Unsworth, N Barmby (sub: F Jeffers 76), K Campbell, M Branch (sub: D Cadamarteri 64).

Booked: Gemmill, Barmby, Campbell.

Referee: D Elleray.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 **COVENTRY** (1) 2
Rudi 51 McAllister 19 (pen)
28,136 Whelan 84

Sheffield Wednesday: P Srnicek, P Atherton, D Walker (sub: J Newsome 46min), E Thome, L Briscoe, N Alexandersson, W Jonk (sub: P Scott 90), P Rudi, R Cresswell, B Carbone, R Humphreys (sub: D Sonner 46).

Booked: Srnicek, Sonner.

Coventry City: M Hedman, M Edworthy, G Breen, R Shaw, P Williams, G Boateng, P Telfer, G McAllister (sub: P Clement 90), S Froggatt, D Huckerby, N Whelan.

Booked: Telfer, Whelan. Referee: K Burge.

SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0 **ARSENAL** (0) 0
15,255

Southampton: N Moss, J Dodd, P Colleter, D Hughes, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, S Ripley (sub: F Benali 65min), M Hughes, E Ostenstad (sub: J Beattie 54), S Hiley, W Bridge.

Booked: Colleter, Monkou, M Hughes.

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, T Adams, M Keown (sub: S Bould 86), R Parlour, F Ljungberg (sub: L Boa Morte 85), N Anelka, N Kanu, K Diawara (sub: N Vivas 77).

Booked: Vieira.

Referee: P Jones.

TOTTENHAM (0) 0 **LEICESTER** (1) 2
35,415 Elliott 43
Cottee 67

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, L Young, S Campbell, J Edinburgh (sub: A Sinton 74min), R Fox (sub: C Armstrong 66), S Freund, A Nielsen, D Ginola, S Iversen, L Ferdinand.

Booked: Edinburgh, Freund, Young, Ginola.

Leicester City: K Keller, F Sinclair, M Elliott, R Ullathorne, A Impey, R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet (sub: P Kaamark 55), S Guppy, A Cottee, E Heskey.

Booked: Sinclair, Guppy, Heskey.

Referee: N Barry.

WIMBLEDON (1) 1 **MAN UTD** (1) 1
Euell 5 Beckham 44
26,121

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, A Kimble (sub: N Ardley 81min), C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, C Hughes (sub: A Roberts 83), R Earle, M Gayle, M Hughes, J Euell, J Hartson (sub: C Cort 68).

Booked: Cort.

Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin, R Johnsen, D Beckham, A Cole, J Blomqvist (sub: O G Solskjaer 73), R Keane, P Scholes, D Yorke, H Berg.

Booked: Berg.

Referee: G Barber.

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (1) 2 **SHEFFIELD UTD** (0) 1
Hignett 14, 90 Marcelo 86
17,568

BRADFORD (1) 3 **GRIMSBY** (0) 0
Blake 11 14,522
Sharpe 76
Beagrie 90

BRISTOL CITY (2) 2 **PORT VALE** (0) 0
Akinbiyi 31 11,039
Howells 36

NORWICH (0) 0 **CRYSTAL PALACE** (1) 1
15,754 Austin 13

OXFORD UTD (0) 0 **BOLTON** (0) 0
7,547

QPR (0) 1 **HUDDERSFIELD** (0) 1
Breacker 52 Lawson 79
11,113
Sent off: K Gray (Huddersfield) 51

STOCKPORT (0) 0 **BURY** (0) 0
7,483

SUNDERLAND (2) 3 **WEST BROM** (0) 0
Phillips 22, 48 41,135
Clark 26

SWINDON (0) 0 **IPSWICH** (4) 6
10,337 Venus 6 (pen), 61 (pen)
Scowcroft 18
Mowbray 22
Clapham 43
Wilnis 74
Sent off: C Taylor (Swindon) 6

WATFORD (0) 2 **TRANMERE** (0) 1
Kennedy 67 Kelly 53
Ngonge 87 8,682
Sent off: R Johnson (Watford) 80
A Smart (Watford) 87

WOLVES (0) 2 **PORTSMOUTH** (0) 0
Muscat 71 23,262
Flo 76
Sent off: J Peron (Portsmouth) 59

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 0 **WALSALL** (1) 2
5,492 Mavrak 7
Larusson 53

MACCLESFIELD (1) 1 **WYCOMBE** (2) 3
Payne 11 Lawrence 41
3,183 Devine 45, 49
Sent off: E Sodje (Macclesfield) 57

MAN CITY (0) 1 **WIGAN** (0) 0
Cooke 52 31,058

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0 **BURNLEY** (0) 0
5,625

STOKE (1) 2 **LINCOLN** (0) 0
Thorne 21, 65 12,845

WREXHAM (1) 1 **BRISTOL R** (0) 0
Owen 16 3,087

YORK (0) 1 **CHESTERFIELD** (1) 2
Jordan 86 Leaning 44
3,358 Beaumont 60

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Colchester 1 Preston 0; Northampton 2 Bournemouth 1.

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (1) 2 **HALIFAX** (1) 2
Charlery 35 Paterson 22
Doolan 54 Bradshaw 82
2,055

CAMBRIDGE U (0) 0 **CARDIFF** (0) 0
7,787

CARLISLE (2) 3 **TORQUAY** (0) 0
Searle 9 3,765
Bowman 21
Tracey 90
Sent off: N Southall (Torquay) 45

DARLINGTON (0) 1 **ROTHERHAM** (1) 2
Gabbiadini 73 Fortune-West 6
3,468 Roscoe 78

HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 **BRENTFORD** (1) 1
2,719 Owusu 42

HULL (0) 1 **SCARBOROUGH** (0) 1
Brabin 49 Hoyland 78
13,949

LEYTON ORIENT (0) 0 **SOUTHEND** (2) 3
5,537 Campbell 3, 40
Coleman 69

MANSFIELD (2) 2 **BRIGHTON** (0) 0
Peacock 35 3,015
Kerr 45

PLYMOUTH (1) 2 **SHREWSBURY** (0) 0
Marshall 40 5,749
Barlow 81

ROCHDALE (0) 0 **PETERBOROUGH** (1) 3
1,686 Davies 36
Grazioli 46, 74

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 **EXETER** (0) 0
Eyre 57 3,419
Logan 77

SWANSEA (1) 1 **CHESTER** (0) 1
Roberts 5 Beckett 58
5,094

SCOTLAND

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE SPL

ABERDEEN (0) 3 **DUNFERMLINE** (1) 1
Winters 47, 56, 68 Graham 7
11,371

CELTIC (3) 5 **DUNDEE** (0) 0
Larsson 7, 66 (pen) 59,269
Burley 32
Viduka 41
Blinker 70

DUNDEE UTD (0) 0 **MOTHERWELL** (2) 3
8,110 Branan 7
Spencer 38, 60

HEARTS (2) 2 **KILMARNOCK** (0) 2
McSwegan 16, 43 Henry 73
14,689 McCoist 77

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE (0) 0 **AYR** (0) 2
1,800 Teale 74 (pen)
Reynolds 81

GK MORTON (1) 3 **FALKIRK** (1) 2
J Anderson 27 McCart 41
Curran 52 Crabbe 71
Wright 64 1,901
Sent off: C McCart (Falkirk) 87

HAMILTON (0) 0 **HIBERNIAN** (1) 2
4,350 Latapy 32, 51

RAITH (2) 3 **STRANRAER** (1) 2
K Fotheringham 19 Knox 36 (pen)
McQuade 37 Harty 53
Dargo 90 1,900

ST MIRREN (1) 1 **CLYDEBANK** (0) 1
Kerr 44 Gardner 62
2,091

SECOND DIVISION

ARBROATH (1) 2 **PARTICK** (1) 1
Arbuckle 20 Dunn 26
Crawford 74 1,301
Sent off: G Connell (Partick) 56

INVERNESS C (1) 3 **CLYDE** (0) 0
Wilson 3 3,019
Sheerin 58 (pen)
Shearer 86

LIVINGSTON (0) 1 **ALLOA** (0) 0
McPhee 65 2,103
Sent off: L Haddow (Alloa) 76

QUEEN OF SOUTH (2) 2 **EAST FIFE** (0) 0
Adams 12 1,411
Rowe 32
Sent off: T Harrison (East Fife) 27

STIRLING (0) 2 **FORFAR** (2) 2
Paterson 68 Graham 9 (og)
Donald 87 Brand 19
820
Sent off: E Forest (Stirling) 89

THIRD DIVISION

BRECHIN (0) 0 **ROSS COUNTY** (1) 1
698 Hare 41

COWDENBEATH (0) 0 **ALBION** (1) 2
258 Lorimer 14
Blair 89
Sent off: G Duncan (Albion) 56

DUMBARTON (0) 2 **MONTROSE** (1) 1
Robertson 73 (pen), 86 (pen) Craig 36 (pen)
541
Sent off: K Meechan (Dumbarton) 70
G Paterson (Montrose) 86

QUEEN'S PARK (2) 2 **EAST STIRLING** (1) 1
P Martin 14 Ward 45
K Finlayson 30 505

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 **BERWICK** (0) 1
Walters 50 Shaw 59
420

Nationwide FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

BARROW (0) 1 **FARNBOROUGH** (0) 0
Johnston 88 (pen) 1,530
Sent off: M Doble (Barrow) 89

DOVER (2) 3 **WOKING** (1) 2
Virgo 40, 44 Saunders 13, West 48
Carruthers 62 1,168

FOREST GREEN (0) 1 **TELFORD** (0) 1
Winter 80 Murphy 68
951

HAYES (1) 3 **KINGSTONIAN** (0) 0
Charles 7, 77 929
Randall 72

KIDDERMINSTR (1) 3 **DONCASTER** (1) 3
Druce 13 Sutherland 18
Hadley 52, 75 Baxwell-Edinboro 57
2,200 Maxfield 80
Sent off: S Cunnington (Kidderminstr) 79

LEEK (0) 1 **KETTERING** (1) 2
McAuley 56 Norman 43
717 Matthews 52

MORECAMBE (0) 1 **HEREFORD** (0) 0
M Cross 59 (og) 1,012

RUSHDEN & D (1) 1 **CHELTENHAM** (0) 2
De Souza 22 Freeman 89
6,312 Grayson 90

SOUTHPORT (1) 1 **HEDNESFORD** (0) 1
Guyett 13 Kimmins 84
1,144

STEVENAGE (0) 1 **NORTHWICH** (1) 3
Butler 90 Devlin 28
1,923 Illman 48, 77

YEOVIL (0) 1 **WELLING** (2) 3
Appleton 86 Hanlon 4
2,903 Adams 23, 77 (pen)

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering	39	11	5	4	30	14	9	5	5	24	20	70
Cheltenham	35	8	7	1	29	11	11	5	3	34	18	69
Rushden	36	10	3	4	35	18	9	7	3	27	16	67
Hayes	36	10	3	6	30	23	8	4	5	22	22	61
Yeovil	34	7	4	7	32	28	9	6	1	23	15	58
Dover	37	7	8	4	26	19	7	4	7	26	35	54
Kingstonian	34	8	7	3	24	16	6	5	5	22	26	54
Northwich	34	8	2	6	23	17	7	5	6	26	24	52
Stevenage	35	6	9	2	27	21	6	7	5	18	18	52
Hednesford	35	8	6	3	26	20	4	8	6	17	19	50
Woking	35	7	4	6	19	18	7	4	7	20	19	50
Forest Green	33	8	3	5	24	16	5	7	5	35	19	49
Kidderminstr	36	8	4	7	27	20	4	5	8	22	24	45
Doncaster	37	7	4	7	24	22	4	7	8	23	38	44
Morecambe	36	7	5	7	28	28	5	2	10	24	41	43
Hereford	37	6	4	7	16	15	5	5	10	23	29	42
Telford	36	5	8	5	21	22	3	6	9	18	31	38
Southport	35	4	9	5	25	26	3	6	8	15	27	36
Barrow	36	7	5	6	16	21	2	4	10	18	35	36
Leek Town	35	5	5	7	29	27	3	3	12	13	27	32
Welling	36	2	7	9	13	25	4	5	9	22	33	30
Farnborough	37	5	4	8	29	47	1	6	12	12	36	28

OVERSEAS

GERMAN LEAGUE: TSV 1860 Munich 1 Nuremburg 2; Borussia Dortmund 2 Bayern Munich 2; SV Hamburg 2 SC Freiburg 1; Kaiserslautern 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1; Schalke 04 2 VfL Wolfsburg 0; VfB Stuttgart 0 MSV Duisburg 0; Werder Bremen 0 Hansa Rostock 3.

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 1 AS Roma 4; Empoli 1 Juventus 0; Internazionale 2 Fiorentina 0; Lazio 0 AC Milan 0; Parma 1 Cagliari 1; Perugia 0 Bologna 0; Piacenza 4 Udinese 3, Venezia 0 Salernitana 0; Vicenza 1 Sampdoria 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	27	16	8	3	54	23	56
Fiorentina	27	15	5	7	43	26	50
AC Milan	27	13	10	4	39	29	49
Parma	27	13	9	5	48	28	48
AS Roma	27	11	9	7	52	36	42
Udinese	27	12	6	9	39	37	42
Juventus	27	11	8	8	31	27	41
Internazionale	27	11	6	10	47	37	39
Bologna	27	10	9	8	35	31	39
Cagliari	27	9	6	12	38	38	33
Venezia	27	8	8	11	27	35	32
Perugia	27	9	5	13	34	46	32
Bari	27	6	13	8	31	39	31
Piacenza	27	7	7	13	38	43	28
Vicenza	27	6	8	13	18	34	26
Sampdoria	27	6	8	13	27	45	26
Salernitana	27	6	6	15	26	46	24
*Empoli	27	4	9	14	22	47	19

*Empoli deducted 2 points.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Deportivo La Coruña 1 Atlético Madrid 1; Racing Santander 0 Valencia 1.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Nancy 1 Strasbourg 1; Lens 0 Le Havre 1; Lorient 3 Bastia 1; Lyons 2 Metz 0; Monaco 1 Marseilles 2; Nantes 2 Auxerre 2; Paris Saint-Germain 0 Montpellier 1; Sochaux 0 Rennes 3; Toulouse 0 Bordeaux 3.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Anderlecht 1 Lokeren 1; Beveren 1 ASC Charleroi 2; FC Bruges 1 Ghent 0; Mouscron 3 Kortrijk 1; Germinal Ekeren 0 Standard Liege 1; Harelbeke 5 Aalst 1; Lommel 0 Lierse 0; St-Truiden 5 Ostend 0; Westerlo 1 Racing Genk 1.

FIFA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A: Nigeria 1 Costa Rica 1.

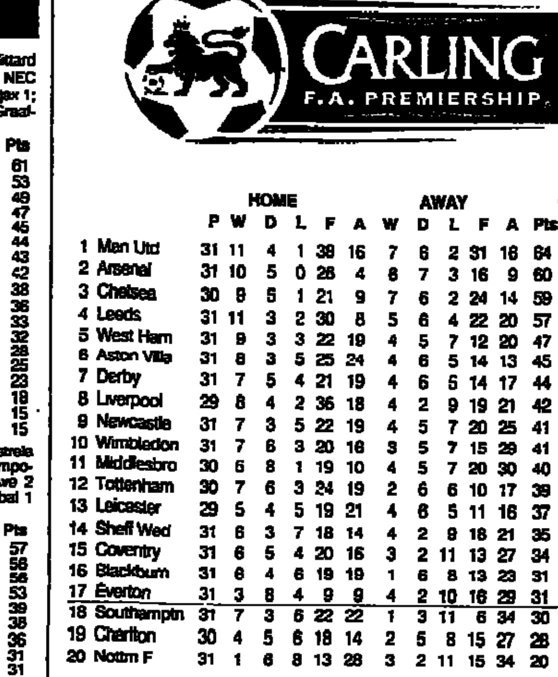
MONTAGUE TOURNAMENT: Under-15 International: England 2 Cameroon 0.

DUTCH LEAGUE: AZ Alkmaar 0 Feyenoord 2; Fortuna Sittard 1 Heerenveen 0; NAC Breda 2 Willem II Tilburg 2; NEC Nijmegen 1 Cambuur Leeuwarden 0; PSV Eindhoven 3 Ajax 1; RKC Waalwijk 0 Vitesse Arnhem 2; Sparta Rotterdam 2 Graafschap De Doetinchem 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	25	19	4	2	60	25	61
Vitesse Arnhem	26	16	5	5	50	30	53
PSV Eindhoven	26	14	7	5	65	39	49
Willem II Tilburg	27	14	5	8	51	41	47
Roda JC Kerkrade	26	13	6	7	47	32	45
Ajax	25	12	8	5	54	28	44
Twente Enschede	26	12	7	7	40	33	43
Heerenveen	27	11	9	7	44	34	42
AZ Alkmaar	26	9	11	6	40	43	38
Fortuna Sittard	26	10	6	10	35	38	36
Utrecht	26	9	6	11	46	48	33
NEC Nijmegen	26	8	8	10	33	40	32
Graafschap Doetinchem	27	6	10	11	31	46	28
Cambuur Leeuwarden	26	6	7	13	27	50	25
MVV Maastricht	27	5	8	14	31	50	23
Sparta Rotterdam	26	5	3	18	27	57	18
NAC Breda	26	3	6	17	27	48	15
RKC Waalwijk	27	3	6	18	27	53	15

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Academica 0 Alverca 5; Estrela Amadora 1 CS Maritimo 0; Benfica 5 Salgueiros 0; Campomaiorense 4 Beira Mar 1; Chaves 1 Boavista 1; Rio Ave 2 Farense 2; Sporting Lisbon 3 Guimarães 0; Vitoria Setubal 1 União Leiria 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	27	16	9	2	44	21	57
Benfica	27	17	5	5	58	20	56
FC Porto	24	17	5	2	56	19	56
Sporting Lisbon	26	15	8	3	51	21	53
Estrela Amadora	27	10	9	8	29	31	39
União Leiria	27	10	8	9	26	22	38
Vitoria Setubal	27	9	9	9	26	29	36
Guimarães	25	8	7	10	36	33	31
Salgueiros	26	6	13	7	21	40	31
Campomaiorense	26	8	6	12	32	38	30
CS Maritimo	27	7	8	12	32	36	29
Rio Ave	27	6	11	10	23	37	29
Farense	27	7	8	12	26	42	29
Alverca	27	6	10	11	26	37	28
Beira Mar	27	5	12	10	26	39	27
Sporting Braga	25	5	10	10	28	26	25
Chaves	27	5	9	13	34	51	24
Academica	27	4	7	16	26	54	19



	HOME						AWAY					Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Man Utd	31	11	4	1	39	16	7	6	2	31	16	64	+37
2 Arsenal	31	10	5	0	26	4	8	7	3	16	9	60	+29
3 Chelsea	30	9	5	1	21	9	7	6	2	24	14	59	+22
4 Leeds	31	11	3	2	30	8	5	6	4	22	20	57	+24
5 West Ham	31	9	3	3	22	19	4	5	7	12	20	47	-5
6 Aston Villa	31	8	3	5	25	24	4	6	5	14	13	45	+2
7 Derby	31	7	5	4	21	19	4	6	5	14	17	44	-1
8 Liverpool	29	8	4	2	36	18	4	2	9	19	21	42	+16
9 Newcastle	31	7	3	5	22	19	4	5	7	20	25	41	-2
10 Wimbledon	31	7	6	3	20	16	3	5	7	15	29	41	-10
11 Middlesbro	30	6	8	1	19	10	4	5	7	20	30	40	-1
12 Tottenham	30	7	6	3	24	19	2	6	6	10	17	39	-2
13 Leicester	29	5	4	5	19	21	4	6	5	11	16	37	-7
14 Sheff Wed	31	6	3	7	18	14	4	2	9	18	21	35	+1
15 Coventry	31	6	5	4	20	16	3	2	11	13	27	34	-10
16 Blackburn	31	6	4	6	19	19	1	6	8	13	23	31	-10
17 Everton	31	3	8	4	9	9	4	2	10	16	29	31	-13
18 Southamptn	31	7	3	6	22	22	1	3	11	6	34	30	-28
19 Charlton	30	4	5	6	18	14	2	5	8	15	27	28	-8
20 Nottm F	31	1	6	8	13	28	3	2	11	15	34	20	-34

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	39	17	2	1	46	9	9	8	2	31	14	88	(77)
2 Ipswich	39	13	1	5	28	11	10	6	4	32	14	76	(60)
3 Bradford	39	14	3	3	44	16	8	4	7	25	23	73	(69)
4 Birmingham	39	10	7	2	29	12	9	5	6	30	19	69	(59)
5 Bolton	38	11	5	3	39	22	6	9	4	29	28	65	(68)
6 Wolves	39	11	8	1	34	15	7	3	9	24	22	65	(58)
7 Watford	39	9	8	3	25	18	6	5	8	28	33	58	(53)
8 Sheff Utd	39	10	5	5	36	27	5	6	8	26	31	56	(62)
9 Huddersfld	40	11	8	1	37	20	3	6	11	19	42	56	(56)
10 C Palace	40	11	8	1	40	22	3	5	12	14	37	55	(54)
11 West Brom	39	11	2	6	38	25	4	6	10	23	37	53	(61)
12 Grimsby	37	9	4	4	22	15	6	4	10	14	27	53	(36)
13 Barnsley	40	7	7	6	31	24	5	8	7	20	24	51	(51)
14 Norwich	39	6	9	4	28	23	6	5	9	23	30	50	(51)
15 Tranmere	40	7	5	8	31	26	4	11	5	23	27	49	(54)
16 Stockport	39	6	8	6	21	18	4	8	7	22	29	46	(43)
17 Portsmouth	40	9	5	6	31	22	1	8	11	19	40	43	(50)
18 QPR	38	7	7	6	25	18	3	4	11	17	30	41	(42)
19 Swindon	39	6	8	6	37	40	4	2	13	14	33	40	(51)
20 Oxford Utd	40	6	8	6	24	25	3	4	13	15	38	39	(39)
21 Bury	39	7	7	5	19	19	0	9	11	10	32	37	(29)
22 Port Vale	38	7	2	9	16	25	3	3	14	22	45	35	(38)
23 Crewe	39	5	5	9	23	33	3	5	12	20	41	34	(43)
24 Bristol City	38	5	8	7	29	33	1	6	11	18	37	32	(47)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Fulham	37	15	2	1	37	10	11	4	4	26	16	84	(63)
2 Preston	38	11	4	4	42	19	10	5	4	26	17	72	(68)
3 Walsall	37	10	6	3	29	20	11	2	5	24	20	71	(53)
4 Man City	39	10	6	3	27	12	8	8	4	26	16	68	(53)
5 Bournemth	38	13	5	1	36	10	6	5	8	23	26	67	(59)
6 Gillingham	38	13	5	2	39	14	4	9	5	22	21	65	(61)
7 Stoke	37	9	3	7	26	22	10	0	8	22	22	60	(48)
8 Wigan	36	10	3	4	30	12	7	4	8	25	24	58	(55)
9 Reading	39	9	6	5	27	24	6	6	7	22	27	57	(49)
10 Chesterfld	37	13	2	4	32	15	3	7	8	11	20	57	(43)
11 Millwall	38	7	7	5	28	21	8	3	8	17	24	55	(45)
12 Wrexham	37	7	6	6	18	21	5	5	8	20	30	47	(38)
13 Luton	38	8	4	7	21	22	4	6	9	23	30	46	(44)
14 Blackpool	38	5	8	6	19	19	6	5	8	16	25	46	(35)
15 Notts Co	37	6	4	7	23	22	5	5	10	20	31	42	(43)
16 Colchester	38	6	7	6	19	25	3	8	8	22	30	42	(41)
17 Bristol R	38	7	7	6	29	25	2	7	9	19	21	41	(48)
18 York	38	4	7	8	23	29	6	2	11	23	38	39	(46)
19 Burnley	38	6	6	8	19	32	3	6	9	22	36	39	(41)
20 Oldham	38	5	3	10	19	25	5	5	10	19	29	38	(38)
21 Wycombe	38	7	4	9	27	21	2	6	10	14	28	37	(41)
22 Lincoln City	37	8	3	7	24	22	2	3	14	10	39	36	(34)
23 Northmptn	38	3	8	7	15	21	5	4	11	15	25	36	(30)
24 Macclesfld	37	5	4	9	14	20	3	5	11	16	28	33	(30)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Cardiff	39	13	4	3	34	16	7	6	6	21	17	70	(55)
2 Camb Utd	37	12	4	3	35	18	8	4	6	30	22	68	(65)
3 Brentford	37	13	4	2	35	16	7	0	11	24	34	64	(59)
4 Scunthorpe	38	13	1	5	38	25	6	4	9	23	27	62	(61)
5 L Orient	37	10	4	5	27	23	6	7	5	24	23	59	(51)
6 Rotherham	37	8	7	4	34	23	8	3	7	34	27	58	(68)
7 Mansfield	38	13	1	4	33	16	4	6	10	22	39	58	(55)
8 Plymouth	38	11	5	4	29	12	5	4	9	18	21	57	(47)
9 Swansea	37	8	8	2	25	15	7	4	8	19	24	57	(44)
10 Peterboro	39	9	4	7	34	28	7	4	8	27	23	56	(61)
11 Halifax	38	8	7	4	30	23	6	6	7	21	23	55	(51)
12 Darlington	37	9	4	5	34	18	5	4	10	21	31	50	(55)
13 Chester	39	5	10	4	21	24	6	6	8	26	30	49	(47)
14 Exeter	37	10	4	5	24	15	3	6	9	12	22	49	(36)
15 Barnet	38	9	4	7	29	29	4	5	9	19	30	48	(48)
16 Shrewsbury	38	10	5	4	32	24	2	7	10	11	26	48	(43)
17 Brighton	39	7	1	11	22	31	7	4	9	21	27	47	(43)
18 Rochdale	38	8	7	4	19	15	4	4	11	17	30	47	(36)
19 Southend	39	8	5	6	22	14	4	5	11	23	37	46	(45)
20 Torquay	39	8	7	4	26	16	2	8	10	16	33	45	(42)
21 Hull	39	6	5	9	20	24	6	3	10	18	31	44	(38)
22 Carlisle	39	7	5	7	19	16	3	7	10	17	26	42	(36)
23 Scarboro	37	6	2	9	21	31	5	3	12	18	33	38	(39)
24 Hartlepool	38	5	6	8	27	27	4	4	11	17	34	37	(44)

SCOTLAND

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 *Rangers	28	10	3	1	27	9	9	2	3	36	15	62	+39
2 Celtic	29	12	2	1	45	7	4	6	4	27	18	56	+47
3 Kilmarnock	29	7	6	2	19	11	5	5	4	15	11	47	+12
4 *St Johnstn	28	5	5	3	19	17	6	4	5	13	18	42	-3
5 Motherwell	29	6	5	4	18	20	2	5	7	12	21	34	-11
6 Aberdeen	29	5	4	5	20	24	4	3	8	14	26	34	-16
7 Dundee	29	5	3	7	12	20	3	3	8	12	30	30	-26
8 Dundee Utd	28	2	7	4	11	14	5	1	9	17	20	29	-6
9 Dunfermline	29	4	6	4	14	17	0	9	6	9	24	27	-18
10 Hearts	28	6	2	7	19	21	0	5	8	5	21	25	-18

*Does not include last night's late match

FIRST DIVISION

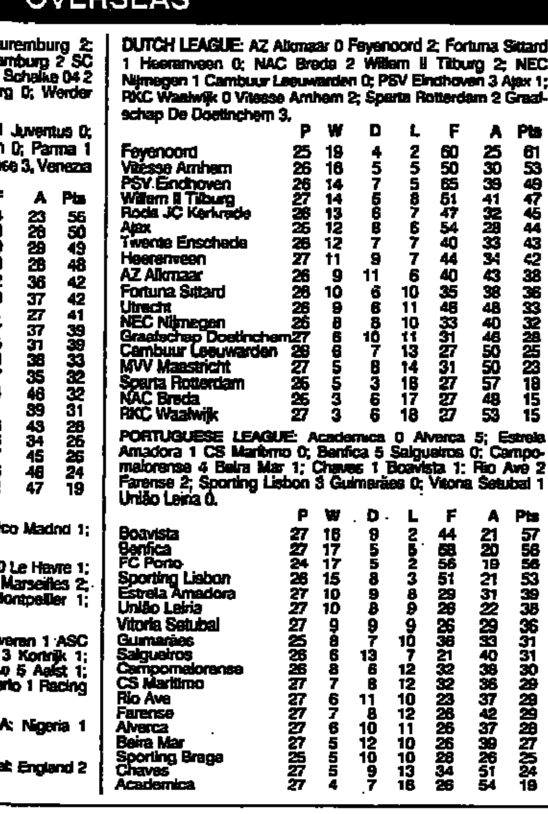
	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Hibernian	31	13	1	1	39	10	10	4	2	32	19	74	+42
2 Falkirk	31	8	5	3	27	16	9	1	5	27	16	57	+22
3 Ayr	30	7	3	5	36	21	9	1	5	21	16	52	+20
4 Airdrie	31	5	2	9	15	27	10	3	2	22	11	50	-1
5 St Mirren	31	8	2	5	17	19	4	7	5	14	15	45	-3
6 G Morton	30	5	5	6	19	18	6	2	6	15	13	40	+3
7 Clydebank	29	4	5	4	13	12	5	6	5	17	20	38	-2
8 Raith	31	5	4	7	17	23	2	6	7	16	27	31	-17
9 Hamilton	31	2	5	8	11	22	3	4	9	17	35	24	-29
10 Stranraer	31	2	2	12	14	25	2	0	13	12	36	14	-35

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Inverness C	31	13	2	0	38	15	7	4	5	32	23	66	+32
2 Livingston	31	11	4	1	26	9	8	5	2	31	21	66	+27
3 Clyde	31	9	4	3	24	14	5	4	6	16	20	50	+6
4 Queen of S	31	8	6	3	21	13	5	1	10	21	26	40	+3
5 Alloa	31	7	3	6	37	27	4	3	8	21	22	39	+9
6 Partick	31	6	3	7	15	17	5	2	8	14	18	38	-6
7 Arbroath	31	7	3	6	18	22	3	4	8	13	23	37	-14
8 Stirling	31	5	2	8	22	27	5	4	7	20	29	36	-14
9 East Fife	31	5	3	7	17	27	5	2	9	17	28	35	-21
10 Forfar	31	4	3	8	25	30	2	4	10	16	33	25	-22

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Ross County	31	11	1	4	36	14	10	4	1	41	20	68	+43
2 Stenhsmuir	31	7	2	6	30	22	8	5	3	24	15	52	+17
3 Brechin	31	5	6	5	17	18	9	2	4	24	21	50	+2
4 Dumbarton	30	4	5	6	17	19	8	4	3	23	17	45	+4
5 Albion	31	5	4	6	22	29	7	4	5	20	22	44	-9
6 Berwick	31	5	3	8	22	25	4	9	2	18	18	39	-3
7 Queen's Pk	31	6	6	3	20	16	3	4	9	16	24	37	-4
8 East Stirling	31	4	8	3	23	17	4	3	9	21	25	35	+2
9 Montrose	31	5	4	6	22	24	2	2	12	13	38	27	-27
10 Cowdenbth	30	4	2	10	17	27	2	4	8	11	26	24	-25



Miguel de Souza, who opened the scoring for Rushden and Diamonds, skips clear of two Cheltenham Town players on Saturday. Cheltenham fought back in dramatic fashion to win with two goals in the last minute. Match report, page 30

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 1 Leigh RMI 2; Altrincham 2 Hyde 1; Blyth Spartans 0 Worksop 1; Colwyn Bay 1 Gateshead 1; Gainsborough 4 Frickley 1; Guiseley 1 Bishop Auckland 0; Lancaster 1 Runcorn 1; Marine 3 Chorley 1; Spennymoor 2 Emley 1; Stalybridge 2 Whitby 0; Winsford 1 Bamber Bridge 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worksop	38	20	7	9	55	40	67
Altrincham	35	19	8	7	59	29	65
Gateshead	37	17	11	9	66	50	62
Bamber Bridge	38	16	13	9	57	44	61
Guiseley	33	17	6	10	53	38	57
Hyde Utd	36	15	9	12	55	39	54
Gainsborough	36	16	6	14	53	50	54
Whitby Town	34	14	11	9	63	52	53
Leigh RMI	33	13	13	7	56	47	52
Winsford Utd	36	13	13	10	49	42	52
Stalybridge	36	13	10	13	60	55	49
Marine	38	10	15	13	56	61	45
Bishop Auck	40	10	14	16	46	63	44
Emley	33	10	13	10	39	40	43
Blyth Spartans	37	12	7	18	48	56	43
Colwyn Bay	34	11	9	14	47	56	42
Lancaster	37	10	12	15	47	56	42
Frickley	34	9	14	11	47	54	41
Runcorn	33	8	15	10	34	43	39
Spennymoor	35	10	8	17	46	63	38
Chorley	37	5	14	18	40	65	29
Accrington S	36	7	5	24	36	69	26

FIRST DIVISION: Belper Town 2 Farsley Celtic 1; Bradford PA 5 Witton 0; Burscough 0 Great Harwood 2; Congleton 2 Lincoln 2; Droylsden 2 Trafford 0; Eastwood Town 0 Whitley Bay 1; Flixton 2 Hucknall 3; Harrogate Town 4 Matlock Town 0; Netherfield Kendal 1 Alfreton 0; Radcliffe 2 Ashton 1; Stocksbridge PS 2 Gretna 3.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Atherstone 0 Nuneaton 2; Boston 0 King's Lynn 1; Crawley 2 Weymouth 2; Dorchester 0 Gloucester 0; Gresley 3 Cambridge City 0; Halesowen 3 Tamworth 0; Ilkeston 1 Grantham 1; Merthyr 0 Burton 2; Rothwell 1 Hastings 3; Salisbury 3 Bath 2; Worcester 3 Bromsgrove 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	37	24	7	6	82	30	79
Gloucester City	37	17	11	9	51	42	62
Ilkeston Tn	36	16	11	9	60	44	59
Salisbury	36	15	10	11	49	51	55
Boston Utd	34	13	13	8	56	37	52
Bath City	35	14	10	11	52	38	52
Hastings	35	14	9	12	41	38	51
Crawley Town	35	14	9	12	49	49	51
Weymouth	36	13	11	12	52	48	50
Worcester City	36	14	8	14	45	47	50
Halesowen	36	13	10	13	58	51	49
Grantham	36	14	7	15	47	48	49
Tamworth	34	15	4	15	51	55	49
Burton Albion	36	14	6	16	45	47	48
Atherstone	34	12	11	11	44	40	47
King's Lynn	36	13	8	15	46	45	47
Merthyr	37	13	6	18	46	58	45
Gresley Rovers	35	12	6	17	43	59	42
Dorchester	37	8	14	15	44	54	38
Rothwell Town	34	10	8	16	37	56	38
Cambridge City	35	9	10	16	38	58	37
Bromsgrove	37	8	5	24	33	72	29

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bedworth 1 Hinckley 2; Bilston 1 Stafford 2; Bloxwich 0 Blakenall 2; Clevedon 2 Weston-super-Mare 0; Moor Green 3 Stourbridge 1; Newport AFC 4 Cinderford 1; Paget 2 Sutton Coldfield Town 3; RC Warwick 0 Evesham 4; Solihull Boro 1 Redditch 1; VS Rugby 1 Shepshed Dynamo 0; Wisbech 0 Stamford AFC 0. Southern division: Baldock 1 Brackley 2; Bashley 1 Newport IoW 3; Chelmsford 2 Erith and Belvedere 0; Corby 0 Raunds 0; Dartford 2 Fisher London 0; Sittingbourne 0 Margate 4; St Leonards 1 Tonbridge Angels 0; Witney 4 Andover 2; Yate 0 Cirencester 1.

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 2 Gravesend 0; Basingstoke 3 Bishop's Stortford 1; Boreham Wood 2 Hendon 0; Bromley 2 Billericay 2; Carshalton 0 Chesham 1; Dag and Red 0 Sutton 0; Dulwich 4 Aldershot 3; Enfield 1 Purfleet 2; Harrow 4 Hampton 0; Heybridge 2 Slough 1; Walton and Hersham 1 St Albans 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	35	22	7	6	62	29	73
Sutton Utd	34	22	5	7	70	34	71
Dag & Red	35	18	9	8	60	37	63
Purfleet	36	19	6	11	61	43	63
Enfield	35	18	7	10	65	41	61
St Albans	34	14	12	8	59	45	54
Billericay Tn	37	14	12	11	48	45	54
Gravesend	34	16	4	14	46	40	52
Boreham Wood	36	13	12	11	50	54	51
Aldershot Tn	33	13	10	10	70	35	49
Harrow Boro	36	14	7	15	56	58	49
Hendon	34	13	9	12	55	53	48
Basingstoke	33	12	9	12	50	44	45
Slough	35	12	9	14	47	47	45
Dulwich	37	12	7	18	47	58	43
Chesham	31	12	6	13	49	53	42
Heybridge	34	10	8	16	41	67	38
Walton & H	36	9	7	20	36	70	34
Hampton	37	8	10	19	34	69	34
Carshalton	36	8	8	20	39	72	32
Bromley	33	7	10	16	44	56	31
Bishop's S	35	6	8	21	42	83	26

FIRST DIVISION: Berkhamsted 2 Leyton Pennant 0; Grays 1 Chertsey 0; Hitchin 0 Romford 0, Leatherhead 2 Oxford City 2; Maidenhead 0 Wealdstone 2; Molesey 0 Bognor Regis 0; Staines 1 Braintree 1; Uxbridge 1 Barton 0; Wembley 1 Yeading 1; Worthing 0 Croydon 0. Second division: Abingdon Town 2 Leighton 2; Banstead 5 Chalfont St Peter 1; Barking 4 Hertford 0; Bedford Town 4 Thame 0; Bracknell 0 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Edgware 2 Hungerford 2; Hemel Hempstead 2 Witham 2; Marlow 2 Wokingham 1; Met Police 1 Harlow 1; Windsor and Eton 4 Northwood 1; Wivenhoe 4 Horsham 1. Third division: Camberley 1 Kingsbury 1; Cheshunt 1 Hornchurch 0; Clapton 1 Ford* 8; Corinthian-Casuals 3 Lewes 3; Croydon 0 Egham 1; Dorking 1 Aveley 1; East Thurrock 2 Southall 2, Flackwell Heath 0 Wingate and Finchley 4; Tring 0 Ware 0.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Leyton Orient 3 Oxford Utd 1.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-17: Derby 1 Sunderland 2.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bandon 5 Darlaston 0; Gornal 10 Wolverhampton 0; Kington 3 Brierley Hill 0; Lye 1 Star 0; Malvern 0 Dudley Town 0; Stafford 1 Cradley 0; Tipton 2 Westfields 1; Tividale 3 Ettingshall 1; Walsall Wood 0 Smethwick 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 2 Ludlow 0. League Cup: Semi-final first leg: Sedgley White Lions 2 Heath Hayes 0; Halesowen Res 0 Wellington 5.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Halesowen Harriers 4 Barwell 1; Kings Norton 3 Pershore 1; Oldbury 0 Stourport 2; Pelsall Villa 1 Willenhall 0; Rocester 1 Rushall Olympic 0; Shifnal T 2 Sandwell 0; Stapenhill 1 Knypersley 4; Stratford 1 Boldmere St Michaels 4; Wednesfield 1 Chasetown 2; West Midlands Police 0 Bridgnorth 0.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 4 Ashford 2; Bedfont 3 Feltham 1; Chipstead 1 Cobham 0; Cove 1 Merstham 5; Farnham 1 Sandhurst 2; Hartley Wintney 0 Godalming and Guildford 3; Netherne 0 Cranleigh 5; Raynes Park Vale 2 AFC Wallingford 2; Reading 1 Chessington and Hook 0; Westfield 4 Viking Sports 2.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Lensbury 3 Carshalton 3; Old Westminster Ctz. 1 Old Latymerians 1; Old Finchleians 2 Alleyn Old Boys. 2

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 0 Prescot Cables 1; Clitheroe 1 Mossley 3; Holker Old Boys 1 Glossop North End 2; Kidsgrove 1 Skelmersdale 0; Maine Road 0 Cheadle 0; Newcastle Town 2 Salford 3; Ramsbottom 0 Nantwich 3; Rossendale 1 Vauxhall G M 2; St Helens 0 Workington 4.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 2 Billingham Town 2; Chester-le-Street 0 Bedlington Terriers 3; Dunston Federation 2 Crook 0; Easington 4 Consett 0; Morpeth 1 Penrith 2; Newcastle Blue Star 2 Seaham Red Star 3; Tow Law 2 Guisborough 0.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury 1 Carterton 6; Banbury 1 Hallen 1; Cirencester Academy 1 Abingdon 0; Didcot 3 Harrow Hill 1; EFC Cheltenham 0 Burnham 1; North Leigh 4 Tuffley 1; Shortwood 3 Kintbury 5; Swindon Supermarine 2 Highworth 5.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alveston 3 Meir KA 1; Cheslyn Hay 2 Highgate 1; Coleshill 2 Alvechurch 2; Coventry Sphinx 2 Kenilworth 3; Dudley Sports 1 Southam 0; Feckenham 2 Bolehall Swifts 2; GPT (Coventry) 4 Massey Ferguson 0; Kings Heath 2 Handrahan Timbers 0; Studley BKL 5 Continental Star 2. Presidents Cup: Semi-finals: Thimblemill Rec 2 Blackheath Electrodrives 0

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss 1 Harwich and Parkeston 1; Felixstowe Port and Town 4 Warboys 0; Great Yarmouth 1 Bury Town 0; Ipswich 1 Newmarket 1; Lowestoft 3 Soham 0; Maldon 1 Fakenham 0; Sudbury Town 1 Gorleston 2; Sudbury Wanderers 3 Ely 3; Walton 3 Halstead 1; Woodbridge 1 Histon 3; Wroxham 2 Stowmarket 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT 1 Cowes Sports 2; Bemerton Heath 2 Totton 1; Brockenhurst 2 Portsmouth 1; Downton 1 Afc Newbury 5; Fareham 1 Eastleigh 1; Lymington and New Milton 2 Bournemouth 0; Money Fields 5 Hamble ASSC 0; Thatcham 2 East Cowes 0; Whitchurch 1 Christchurch 2; Wimborne 3 Gosport 3.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 0 North Ferriby 0; Brigg 2 Eccleshill 3; Buxton 1 Ossett Town 6; Garforth 2 Sheffield 1; Hallam 3 Arnold 1; Ossett Albion 4 Pontefract Cols 1; Pickering 1 Thackley 0; Selby 1 Glasshoughton Welfare 1; Staveley MW 1 Liversedge 4.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brimsdown 2 Welwyn Garden 1; Brook House 3 Harpenden 1; Buckingham Athletic 2 Royston 0; Hillingdon 1 Beaconsfield Sycob 5; Hoddesdon 3 Waltham Abbey 1; Islington St Mary's 2 Ruislip Manor 2; London Colney 5 St Margaretsbury 1; Milton Keynes 1 Barkingside 5; New Bradwell St Peter 0 Arlesey 1; Somersett Ambury 1 Potters Bar 0; Toddington 3 Haringey 1.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Hullbridge Sports 0 Burnham Ramblers 3. League Cup: Semi-finals second leg: Great Wakering 1 Ilford 0; Saffron Walden 2 Bowers 4.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell 0 Brislington 2; Bridgwater 4 Mangotsfield 2; Bridport 1 Taunton 0, Bristol Manor Farm 4 Elmore 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath 3 Portfield 2; East Preston 1 Pagham 3; Eastbourne Town 4 Whitehawk 1; Horsham YMCA 2 Wick 1; Langney Sports 3 Chichester 0; Littlehampton 2 Hassocks 1; Redhill 4 Shoreham 1; Ringmer 0 Eastbourne 1; Selsey 3 Hailsham 1.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 6 Kempston 1; Ford Sports 2 Eynesbury 3; Holbeach 1 Wellingborough 1; N Spencer 1 Bourne 0; S and L Corby 3 Blackstone 2; Stotfold 7 Long Buckby 0; Yaxley 2 Buckingham 0. Postponed: Wootton v Spalding.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Canterbury 2 Faversham 1; Crockenhill 0 Whitstable 0; Greenwich 1 Lordswood 0; Herne Bay 0 Deal 3; Ramsgate 3 Beckenham 2; Slade Green 1 Thamesmead 1; Tunbridge Wells 2 Erith 2; VCD 3 Sheppey 2.

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford 1 Cambridge 0.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Ilkeston 2 Bradford 2; Millwall 0 Everton 3.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Aston Villa 2 Leeds 1; Blyth Spartans Kestrels 7 Coventry 0; Huddersfield 1 Berkhamsted 4. Southern division: Langford 0 Three Bridges 1; Leyton Orient 0 Barry 0; Whitehawk 0 Reading Royals 2; Wimbledon 1 Brighton 3.

AXA FA WOMEN'S CUP: Fourth round: Southampton Saints 2 Tranmere 1; Doncaster 0 Arsenal 2.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 0 Afan Lido 1; Caernarfon Town 2 Haverfordwest 0; Conwy 1 Rhayader Town 1; Cwmbran 0 Total Network Solutions 4; Holywell 3 Aberystwyth 6; Inter Cable-Tel 0 Newtown 2; Rhyl 1 Carmarthen Town 2.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 2 Huntly 3; Cove 1 Elgin 2; Deveronvale 3 Clachnacuddin 4; Fort William 0 Fraserburgh 5; Keith 7 Wick Academy 0; Nairn County 0 Peterhead 3; Rothes 2 Lossiemouth 1.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Glentoran 1 Cliftonville 1; Linfield 1 Coleraine 1; Newry 3 Crusaders 0; Omagh Town 0 Glenavon 3; Portadown 2 Ballymena 1. First division: Bangor 1 Larne 0; Carrick 1 Ards 0; Dungannon Swifts 2 Distillery 1; Limavady Utd 2 Ballyclare 2.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Sligo Rovers 2 Cork 5; Bohemians 2 Dundalk 1.

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 28: D Yorke (Man Utd). 21: M Owen (Liverpool); J Aloisi (Coventry, 17 for Portsmouth); A Cole (Man Utd). 19: A Ward (Blackburn, 15 for Barnsley). 18: R Fowler (Liverpool). 17: J F Hasselbaink (Leeds). 16: O G Solskjaer (Man Utd). 15: H Ricard (Middlesbrough); A Shearer (Newcastle); N Anelka (Arsenal).

FIRST DIVISION: 31: L Hughes (West Brom). 24: M Stewart (Huddersfield). 22: L Mills (Bradford). 19: I Roberts (Norwich); A Akinbiyi (Bristol City). 18: D Windass (Bradford, 18 for Oxford Utd); N Quinn (Sunderland); B Angell (Stockport).

SECOND DIVISION: 24: G Horsfield (Fulham, 8 for Halifax); M Stein (Bournemouth). 21: S Barlow (Wigan). 20: K Nogan (Preston); J Cureton (Bristol Rovers).

THIRD DIVISION: 20: L Owusu (Brentford); M Butler (Cambridge Utd); J Forrester (Scunthorpe). 18: M Gabbiadini (Darlington); L Peacock (Mansfield); S Partridge (Brentford, 15 for Torquay).

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE: 37: H Larsson (Celtic). 24: R Wallace (Rangers). 18: J Albertz (Rangers). 16: J Johansson (Rangers).

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: 23: C Alford (Stevenage). 21: W Patmore (Yeovil).

Includes all competitions

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were six score draws: Wimbledon v Man Utd, QPR v Huddersfield, Barnet v Halifax, Swansea v Chester, Hearts v Kilmarnock, St Mirren v Clydebank. Payouts on six and five score draws. This weeks confirmed pay out for: Six score draws: 14 winners each £7.133.50. Five score draws: 357 winners each £5.

POOLS CHECK*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1

26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3
1	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is moderate, four score draws and thirteen no-score draws.

Full-time: no claims required — forecast is very good, seven score draws and six no-score draws.

MARC ASPLAND



Cambridge formula reigns supreme

Rob Hughes sees Oxford reduced to tears as the Light Blues hammer home Boat Race truths

The irreconcilable moment of defeat and the ultimate truth of the Boat Race are in this photograph. Colin von Ettingshausen, a hardened German Olympic silver medal-winner and world championship gold medal-winner, is reduced to tears, comforted by Daniel Snow, a first-year Oxford University student, after the realisation that method, not man, has carried Cambridge University and their supremacy from this millennium to the next.

The ecstasy and the agony are always encapsulated when the 16½ minutes of the Boat Race are over; but now, more than ever, what is decisive is that Oxford, for all their ambition in recruiting overseas talents to read social studies, cannot eliminate the harmony and the know-how that is coached into the students of Cambridge, for the past seven years the supreme university.

For this, Cambridge have to thank Robin Williams. He has been in command for five years, never losing the Boat Race, taking over from Sean Bowden, who now experiences annual defeat with the Dark Blues of Oxford. Moreover, the formula of looking inward into the potential already at Cambridge was established a decade ago by a previous coach, Mark Lees, who trained his crews with such intensity that he fell victim to pneumonia.

For example, Williams, a mild man from Monmouth, had chosen for this year's crew Toby Wallace, a student from Wiltshire reading management studies, whom he spotted playing hockey for Cambridge. Wallace was in the bow of the boat and was to the fore of the affection shown after the race to Vian Sharif, the diminutive blonde cox, who had triumphed over those critics who had doubted her ability.

Before, inevitably, her crew tossed her into the Thames, like fishermen returning a minnow, Sharif answered in the only way possible. "I know people had doubts," she said defiantly, "but I didn't care."

Indeed not, with an umpire as decisive and as firm as Mark Evans, the end of the cox wars that had threatened previous races was thankfully at hand. Coach Williams said of Sharif, 19, who is scarcely bigger than Williams's own 7-year-old daughter Elizabeth: "Look at her, she carried a heck of a lot of responsibility, but she was big today, she kept a cool head and a stern discipline."

Williams, who celebrates his 40th birthday today, maintained an almost Biblical adherence in being true to his own self. He had doubts this year, visited upon him by the constant stories from within Oxford that this time the recruitment of high-class rowers and the equalling of power would break the sequence of what is now a record seven consecutive Light Blues victories.

"I was pretty worried on Friday," Williams conceded. "We needed to put a few basics right and with the word coming that Oxford really rated themselves, with the way they had gone in warm-up races, I honestly did wonder if this time we would prevail."

However, it is not for the coach to transmit fear or self-doubt and the Williams credo to his charges on Saturday was "don't try anything we have not done over the past six months". In other words, trust in the method, in the cohesion, in the sharing of that teamwork for six hours a day over half the year, in the longer stroke and in the ability to relax momentarily at the height of the pull and trust that it would maintain the balanced, even surge that is the hallmark of Cambridge University rowing.

In victory, or defeat, some look for reasons, others simply draw reason out of the demeanour of men. Von Ettingshausen, whose father, Baron Othmar von Ettingshausen, from Dusseldorf, was on the towpath sharing first the pride then the despair, was one face of defeat. Another, an enduring vision of manhood in sports, was Charlie Humphreys. When the race was run, Humphreys remained inert in the bow of the Oxford boat, a man draped over his own knees like a coat slung over an armchair. Eventually, he rose and, his cheeks flushed with effort spent, his eyes refusing to permit more of those tears, he crossed the divide between the victors and the vanquished.

This former Hampshire scholar is 22 and he had put himself forward to be the president of Oxford University Boat Club in this, his fourth year of coming to the Thames on Easter Saturday. Four years and now four defeats, starting in the Isis reserve boat, and yet he had the courage, the decency, the impulse to walk to each of the opposing eight and their cox and to offer his hand, sometimes with only a silent appreciation.

A career in biochemistry beckons Humphreys now, but some of his crew will be back to challenge next year and the year after until they reach and surpass the omnipotence of Cambridge. Humphreys acknowledged that it might require the whole engine of Oxford's rowing to be stripped down to basics and that every aspect of their rowing may need reappraisal, but in spirit the race just lost was a prelude to a challenge reborn.

Meanwhile, Williams was rejoicing at a portent for Easter in 2000. "You know what really thrills me," he said, "is that Goldie beat Isis. They were physically the weaker crew, but they came through." Of course they did; they were coached in the same system.

Cambridge settle into a smooth stroke as they pull towards a seventh consecutive victory. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Oxford fail to live up to expectations

By Mike Rosewell, rowing correspondent

IN 1993, Oxford, with Matthew Pinsent as president, were Boat Race favourites and lost by 3½ lengths. In the 145th Boat Race on Saturday, Oxford were again favourites and again lost by 3½ lengths.

The comparisons end there, however, since, in 1993, Oxford had won for the previous six years. Their defeat on Saturday was their seventh in succession and came at a time when some Cambridge supporters were quietly harbouring doubts about their crew. Even Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, admitted that he was worried by his team's "inconsistency" two days prior to the race.

Once again, though, he, his men and one woman managed to get it right on the day. Their rhythm, length, tactics and mental approach were all faultless and left a shell-shocked expression on the face of Sean Bowden, the Oxford coach, when he disembarked from his launch.

Cambridge won the toss and chose Surrey, pleasing Alan Inns, the international cox and tideway expert, who had been tutoring Vian Sharif, the Cambridge cox, in the run-up to the event. Cambridge received an early warning from Mark Evans, the umpire, but led by half a length at the two-minutes mark and had settled well.

After the race, Graham Smith, the Cambridge No 7, reflected on the lift that the crew had received when they found themselves in this position. "I looked across and they weren't moving on us. It felt marvellous. You don't expect things to be that easy in the Boat Race."

Oxford had the Fulham bend still to come, but they did not capitalise on it. An effort by Neil O'Donnell, their cox, to push Cambridge wide misfired when he was warned. There was a slight clash, but Cambridge held on to lead by 1sec at the Mile.

Oxford, still overlapping, spurted past Harrods Wharf. Cambridge replied and were warned, but Sharif and her crew reached Hammersmith Bridge at the better angle and were one length up. If Smith had been enjoying the race at Putney, the rest of the crew were doing so now, moving steadily away with a long, smooth rhythm at a controlled 34 strokes per minute. The lead opened to 7sec at Chiswick Steps, 9sec at Barnes Bridge and had reached 11sec by the finish as Cambridge recorded the second-fastest time in the event's 170-year history.

Five of this year's Cambridge boat and seven of the Goldie reserves were new to the Cambridge experience and Goldie excelled to win



Cambridge bt Oxford 3l, 16min 41sec

Intermediate times

The Mile: Cambridge 3 37 Oxford 3 38
Hammersmith Bridge: Cambridge 6 27 Oxford 6 30
Chiswick Steps: Cambridge 10 13 Oxford 10 17
Barnes Bridge: Cambridge 13 49 Oxford 13 58
Finish: Cambridge 16 41 Oxford 16 52

Reserve race

Goldie bt Isis 1¼l
Goldie 16 58 (new record) Isis 17 02

their challenge, despite being the pre-race underdogs, in a new record time, with a crew composed entirely of British undergraduates, apart from Sean Cashin, a Canadian. All of the Goldie crew are set to return next year.

Cambridge are clearly on a great run. They have not had seven consecutive wins since 1936 and the spirit in their camp is infectious, a spirit summed up, perhaps, by Colin Swainson, the last man to get in to Goldie and who, incidently, lives in Oxford.

"The first five minutes of the row were out of this world," he said. "The rest was for Brad [the Cambridge president] and the Blue Boat. The Blue Boat heard of Goldie's win before they started. It was worth half a length to us."



Sharif, the Cambridge cox, receives the traditional ducking

Francis plays Hide and seek



BOXING

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

JULIUS FRANCIS is to seek a world title bout after the successful defence of his British heavyweight championship against Danny Williams of Brixton at the Albert Hall on Saturday. This being Francis's second heavyweight triumph for Frank Maloney, his promoter, over opponents in the care of Maloney's rival, Frank Warren, the Woolwich boxer would like to make it three in a row for his manager.

Francis wants to challenge Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organization (WBO) champion. Since Francis outpointed Williams by a margin of four rounds and Williams has previously had Hide out on his feet and then on the floor in sparring, the British champion can be forgiven for thinking that he has a reasonable chance of beating Hide. However, Francis may have to wait for Hide to first take on Vitaly Klitschko in June, as the Ukrainian is the mandatory challenger.

Even though Francis beat Williams by a clear margin, the bout was still an exciting one down to the final bell, with Williams's supporters hoping that he might come up with a knockout punch.

Williams launched three onslaughts against Francis in the sixth, seventh and tenth rounds, putting the champion under pressure, but Francis boxed generally well behind the jab and carried the fight to Williams. The challenger's only response was to hide behind his gloves, which were not always effective in warding off Francis's blows.

It had been hoped that Williams, who at 25 is nine years younger than the champion, would give some indication of his potential, but he was a disappointment. He put his punches together with great force and he appears to have a good chin, but he has still to be coached on pacing himself.

Marco Antonio Barrera, of Mexico, gave a display of quality boxing on the same bill, chopping down Paul Lloyd from Ellesmere Port in just one round. Even though Lloyd was the European champion, he looked no more than a novice before the WBO super-bantamweight title-holder, and there was immediately talk of Barrera facing Naseem Hamed, the WBO featherweight champion.

Leeds bid to get back on track

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Christopher Irvine

SO FAR, London Broncos have balanced getting to Wembley and maintaining their form in the JJB Super League better than Leeds Rhinos, their opponents in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final next month.

Their dress-rehearsal at Headingley today is the chance for Leeds to get their league campaign back on track after defeats by Wigan Warriors and Bradford Bulls. For London, it represents a first crack at leading opposition on the ground where they beat Castleford Tigers to reach Wembley ten days ago.

The news that Shaun Edwards is unlikely to be fit for his eleventh cup final appearance after ten in a Wigan shirt is partly compensated by the return at scrum half of Glen Air, who injured a knee in pre-season training.

With Grant Young and Darren Bradstreet, two props, out with long-term injuries, the biggest day in London's history is in danger of being undermined. The club is making a bid for Ian Roberts, the former Australia forward, while Anthony Seibold, who is cup-tied, makes his first full appearance in the pack after a try-scoring debut off the bench in the Hull match.

Leeds, whose Super League ambitions are at risk of a third league defeat, give a full debut at loose forward to Kevin Sinfield. Dean Lawford takes over at scrum half from Ryan Sheridan, who has a slight knee injury.

St Helens confront Bradford, another unbeaten side, at Knowsley Road. Paul Davidson is available after suspension, but Ellery Hanley, the coach, is expected to retain the side that won last Friday at Wigan.

Denis Betts returns to the Wigan second row after a seven-month absence, Jason Robinson switches from the wing to scrum half and Lee Gilmour moves out of the pack to centre for the match away at Wakefield.

Hull, without a league win, have been struck down by injuries to four key players — Andrew Purcell, Karl Harrison, Andy Ireland and Fili Seru — for the home match against Sheffield Eagles, for whom Dale Cardoza is on standby after an injury to Daio Powell, the centre, in their opening league win over Huddersfield Giants.

APRIL
Cricket Coca-Cola Cup
in Sharjah
Sky Sports 2



MAY
Cricket World Cup
begins
Sky Sports 1, 2 and 3

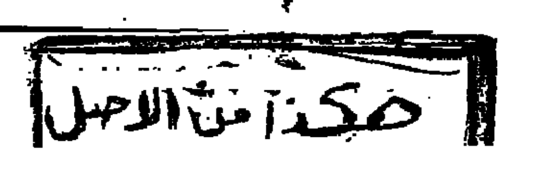
JUNE
Cricket World Cup
Semi's and Final
Sky Sports 1

JULY
England v New Zealand
1st Test Live
Sky Sports 1

AUGUST
County Cricket Super
Cup Tournament
Sky Sports 1

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY SPORTS 2* SKY SPORTS 3 SKY SPORTS NEWS*

*Exclusively in digital with SkyDigital



Powerful Collins too hot to handle

Wales Youth........................0
New Zealand Youth..........25

By Gerald Davies

WITH a masterful display of cohesive forward play. New Zealand won the 31st world junior championship in front of a full house of 13,000 at Stradey Park, Llanelli yesterday. Such was their sense of achievement in having won five games in the past ten days that they felt fully justified, in celebration, in performing their haka for the second time in the afternoon.

Their strength and discipline overcame a spirited but flawed Welsh team, who attempted to play a game of long passes, which were highly risky in the difficult wet conditions and played into the hands of a closely-knit defence.

The core of New Zealand's strength was to be found in their back row. Bates and McCaw were a marauding pair of flankers who consumed the Wales midfield, while, in Jerry Collins, New Zealand had a No 8 who, both in attack and defence, was firmly in his country's tradition of influential players in this position.

As early as the tenth minute, he drove so effectively into the heart of the Welsh defence that he set up a move that ended with Mauger handing on to Fasaualu for the wing to canter over. New Zealand were never quite as threatening after Collins came off eight minutes into the second half.

Wales relied too much on the interventions of Williams from full back, whilst the teamwork of their opponents eventually produced a steamroller effect on the thin red line of defence.

SCORERS: New Zealand: Tries: G Fasaualu 2 (10, 14), J Mulaina (44), R Vallece (51). Conversion: R Fluley. Penalty goal: R Fluley (63)

Tetley's Bitter Cup: North v South encounter promises classic final

Wasps win chance to make final amends

Wasps 35
Gloucester........................21

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

WASPS, who have played in four finals and have yet to win one, will have even greater motivation for their fifth attempt. Their success at Loftus Road yesterday against a brave but limited Gloucester means that they will play the Tetley's Bitter Cup final at Twickenham on May 15 against Newcastle Falcons, the team orchestrated by a swarm of former Wasps.

When Rob Andrew left Sudbury for the North East four years ago, he took with him Steve Bates, Dean Ryan, Graham Childs and Nick Popplewell. Subsequently, Va'aiga Tuigamala made the same journey and although there is no lingering resentment, there will be an added savour to a classic north v south confrontation.

The two clubs meet in the Allied Dunbar Premiership on April 18 at Loftus Road in a game that will be particularly significant since both seek to qualify for Europe by finishing in the top six. But the cup final will prove to be a wonderful carrot to sustain players until mid-May, as well as an opportunity for Wasps to erase the memories of the final last year, when they arrived injured and weary and conceded 48 points to Saracens.

"The memory of last year hurts," Nigel Melville, the director of rugby at Wasps — finalists in 1986, 1987, 1995 and 1998 — said. "We want to put that right. But this time we are in good health, our top players haven't been overplayed and we haven't had the injuries we did then. We think we are a better side one year on."

They are certainly far more efficient, save in the concession of penalties. Four tries to none tells its own tale against a Gloucester side of limited means. It will be little consolation to the West Countrymen that they contributed significantly to a vibrant semi-final — watched by a 10,000 crowd, of whom nearly half came from Gloucester — that contained far more good rugby than the first semi-final at Reading on Saturday.

Had Terry Fanolua been awarded the first-half try that he appeared to have scored, Gloucester would probably have taken a seven-point lead into the interval. Instead, his near-miss — Mark Mapletoft had to be content with the third of his six penalty goals instead — acted as a wake-up call for Wasps, who scored a try, corrected the deficiencies at the lineout and took a grip on affairs in the second half.

They played neat, composed rugby throughout, based on a solid defence that only Chris Catling and Fanolua threatened. In three matches this season, Gloucester have yet to break the Wasps' line and the departure of Fanolua on a stretcher with a knee injury, four minutes after the interval, did nothing to assist that record. The selection of Simon Mannix at fly half, with Mapletoft dispatched to the wing, acknowledged Gloucester's readiness to defend rather than offer a midfield threat.

Even more disappointing was the concession of the first try from what should have been Gloucester ball. Kenny Logan and Mapletoft had exchanged penalties before Ian Sanders dropped the goal that levelled matters at 9-9. Fanolua, driven over by his forwards, was recalled so that Mapletoft could punish Wasps for offside, but the lead lasted just two minutes.

Joe Worsley stole away from a Gloucester lineout, Alex King created space for Rob Henderson and the Ireland centre hurtled through to the posts. Eleven minutes into the second half, Paul Sampson sprinted to the line, although there was some doubt whether he had grounded the ball. It was a double strike from which Gloucester never recovered. Mapletoft kicked two goals where Logan could not, but they had no response to Wasps' finishing. A series of forward drives left Lawrence Dallaglio five metres from the line and, from the scrum, Worsley and Wood worked Paul Volley into the corner.

The black tide was running strongly and twice the Gloucester defence faltered before Wood and Worsley, yet again, paved the way for Logan to be driven over by his pack. The Scot carried his match tally to 20 points by kicking the conversion from the touchline.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Henderson (40), Sampson (51), Volley (70), Logan (81). Conversions: Logan 3. Penalty goals: Logan 3 (10, 21, 25). Gloucester: Penalty goals: Mapletoft 6 (11, 27, 38, 59, 61, 74). Dropped goal: Sanders (31)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 3-0, 3-3, 6-3, 9-3, 9-6, 9-9, 9-12, 16-12 (half-time), 23-12, 23-15, 23-18, 28-18, 28-21, 35-21.
WASPS: J Lewsey; P Sampson, F Waters, R Henderson, K Logan; A King, M Wood; D Molloy, T Leota, W Green, M Weedon, S Shaw (rep: A Reed, 44-55, 69), L Dallaglio, P Volley, J Worsley.
GLOUCESTER: C Catling; M Mapletoft, T Fanolua (rep: R Greenslade-Jones, 44), R Tombs, P Saint-Andre; S Mannix, I Sanders; T Woodman, N McCarthy (rep: C Forley, 66), A Deacon (rep: P Vickery, 66), R Fidler, M Cornwell (rep: D Sims, 58), S Ojomoh, N Carter, E Pearce.
Referee: G Hughes (Manchester)


HUGH ROUTLEDGE
Henderson, centre, bursts through the Gloucester rearguard for the first of Wasps' four tries at Loftus Road yesterday

Bath find accent on youth pays dividends

Bath 24
Leicester............................16

By David Hands

YOUTH, they say, is far too good to be wasted on the young, yet it is the vibrant new generation at Bath that has played so crucial a role in digging them out of their midwinter doldrums and, on Saturday at the Recreation Ground, inflicting on Leicester, runaway leaders of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, only their fourth defeat of the season.

Underpinning all, of course, is the experience of Victor Ubogu, Dave Hilton, the sadly-injured Eric Peters and Mike Catt, but injuries have forced Bath to give youth its fling. Iain Balshaw, 20 this month, has been there all season, but he has been joined by Steve Borthwick, 19, Gareth Cooper, 19, and Mike Tindall, 20, all anxious to carve a swath through the new professional era.

Twice Tindall, benefiting from the unselfish play of Kevin Maggs, wrenched open the tightest defence in the first division and the result was a try for Balshaw and a penalty for Catt that effectively brought to an end Leicester's run of ten successive Premiership wins.

Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, remains convinced that Leicester will win the Premiership, but he can see Europe more clearly on the horizon with his club in third place and two games in hand on London Irish, just behind them.

Results and tables.............41

Leicester remain eight points clear of Northampton, but they are playing tired rugby. It is as well for them that the cavalry are on the horizon. Once their England players have negotiated the final Five Nations Championship hurdle next Sunday, they can concentrate on club business knowing that Joel Stransky and Austin Healey, their first-choice half backs, should be back from injury and suspension respectively, along with Leon Lloyd and Jon Stuart.

For an hour on Saturday, you would not have guessed that these were two of the most successful clubs in England. Basic errors abounded, alongside an element of nastiness that cost Martin Corry a finger-wagging and Neil Back a spell in the sin-bin for punching.

The first try broke a 9-9 stalemate. Peters took the catch from a lineout and flipped it back to Hilton, his prop, who charged, and Leicester conceded a penalty try for collapsing the maul. The Leicester restart went into touch and although they did enough to unsettle the subsequent scrum, an errant boot kicked the ball to Maggs, who created space for Tindall. The centre arced through the defence and drew Tim Stimpson before serving Balshaw with a clear run to the line.

Catt's fourth penalty goal gave Bath a 15-point cushion and spurred Leicester into frantic efforts to retrieve something from the wreckage.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Penalty try (67min), Balshaw (69). Conversion: Catt. Penalty goals: Catt 4 (8, 32, 35, 76). Leicester: Try: Penalty try (81). Conversion: Howard. Penalty goals: Stimpson 3 (15, 22, 59).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bath first): 3-0, 3-3, 3-6, 6-6, 9-6 (half-time), 9-9, 16-9, 21-9, 24-9, 24-16.
BATH: M Perry; I Balshaw, M Tindall, K Maggs, A Adebayo; M Catt, G Cooper; D Hilton, M Regan, V Ubogu (rep: K Yates, 79min), M Haag, S Borthwick, R Earnshaw, E Peters (rep: R Bryan, 73), D Lyle.
LEICESTER: T Stimpson; N Ezulike (rep: J Ferris; 79), C Joiner, P Howard, D Lougheed; G Murphy, J Hamilton; G Rowntree (rep: D Jelley, 68), R Cockerill (rep: D West, 68), D Garforth, M Johnson, F van Heerden, L Moody (rep: P Gustard, 71), N Back (sin-bin 10-20), M Corry (rep: W Johnson, 71)
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).

Worcester's hopes stall at Moseley

Moseley 18
Worcester..........................16

By Nicolas Andrews

THE rise of Worcester has been relentless. From Midlands Two West ten years ago, they have advanced inexorably to the brink of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division. So it was again this season, as they set the pace from the start, or jogged comfortably alongside Bristol at the top of the second division.

Three defeats in their past four games, though, have changed all that. Time is running out and the deficit is now four points. Worcester play Rotherham and Bristol, their promotion rivals, their promotion rivals, in the last two games of the season, but Les Cusworth, the director of rugby, appears already to have thrown in the towel. "Things are well and truly stacked against us," he said.

John Liley, the Worcester full back, has kicked important points from all over the park in a long career, but it was his failure to convert two penalty attempts in the last three minutes that proved costly.

Moseley, though, did not deserve to lose. They tore into Worcester from the first whistle and dominated for an hour, while Worcester were guilty of failing to do the fundamentals well, before Jon Goodwin scored in the 62nd minute.

SCORERS: Moseley: Tries: Mann (5min), Brading (48). Conversion: Binns. Penalty goals: Binns 2 (38, 43). Worcester: Try: Goodwin (62). Conversion: Liley. Penalty goals: Liley 3 (9, 39, 47)

Tuigamala leads Newcastle to Twickenham

Richmond 3
Newcastle Falcons............20

By Mark Souster

AT WOOLER livestock market in Northumberland last week, the locals were berating Va'aiga Tuigamala for his lacklustre performance in Newcastle's record trouncing by Northampton. Someone even suggested that he might be ready for the knackers' yard. This week, when they reconvene, they will no doubt name a prize bull after him, for Tuigamala was back to his imperious best against Richmond, a player who, in tandem with Rob Andrew, proved to be a man for the occasion and the reason why Newcastle will be at Twickenham on May 15.

Tuigamala scored two tries and repeatedly cut Richmond to the bone. They might have known that he was coming, either off his wing or from the centre, after the injury to Jonny Wilkinson forced a reshuffle, but they could not always stop him.

The tries apart, one moment in the 65th minute epitomised his afternoon. Earl Va'a chipped over the Newcastle midfield in an attempt to break the stranglehold, only for Tuigamala to turn, dive backwards, catch and pass the ball away to Gary Armstrong in virtually one movement.

For the new regime at Newcastle, who have injected £3 million into the club, reaching the cup final has produced an instant dividend. During the uncertain weeks after Sir John Hall departed, it was pledges of loyalty from people such as Tuigamala that calmed the situation and presented a united front that did much to persuade potential backers that Newcastle were a cause worth fighting for. He was not alone in believing that reaching the final of the Tetley's Bitter Cup could be a defining moment for the club.

"This will have a big impact on the city because rugby is still very much a new game. No doubt they will come down in their bus-loads for the final. There is a real passion in the North East for any sporting success," Tuigamala, whose copybook was blotted when he was sent to the sin-bin late on, said.

While Tuigamala roamed at will, it was Rob Andrew at fly half who twisted and turned Richmond, and the performance of the Newcastle forwards that allowed him to do so. John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, admitted that he thought his side could "get at" Andrew when Wilkinson retired after a clash of heads with Nick Walne, but not a bit of it. It simply inspired the 36-year-old, who dropped a goal and kicked a penalty and conversion. Close your eyes and you could imagine him playing for England five or six years ago. Time and again, he would receive the ball, dink, check and then, off either left or right foot, kick the ball into the corners. With Richmond insecure on their own lineout ball, the tactic worked admirably.


Tuigamala: great power overwhelmed Richmond

"From a club point of view and the new owners it was massively important to win," Andrew said. "For me personally, it was important to go back to Twickenham, to take the club to a cup final."

After their own travails, it was difficult not to feel some sympathy for Richmond, but on the day they simply froze, or at least their threequarters did. They were stolid in midfield, lay too deep and showed neither sparkle or wit. Their handling was desperate. It did not help that Va'a, their playmaker, had a dismal match.

As an attacking entity, Richmond were non-existent. When they failed to take advantage of a rare period of pressure before half-time, you knew it was not to be their day. Richmond looked to outmuscle the Newcastle pack, from which Marius Hurter was missing, with a succession of scrums on their line, but they drew a complete blank. It was a crucial moment.

Kingston was nonplussed to explain the abject showing. "It was such a big occasion, and we got it wrong. We just didn't play," he said. "But there are seven games to go. Let's see if we really are men."

SCORERS: Richmond: Penalty goal: Va'a (45min). Newcastle Falcons: Tries: Tuigamala 2 (23, 58). Conversions: Wilkinson, Andrew. Dropped goal: Andrew (33). Penalty goal: Andrew (53).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Richmond first): 0-7, 0-10, (half-time), 3-10, 3-13, 3-20.
RICHMOND: M Pini, N Walne, J Wright, M Dixon, S Brown, E Va'a, A Pichot, D McFarland, B Williams, D Crompton, A Sheridan (rep: B Cusack 53), C Gillies, C Quinnell, R Hutton (rep: J Barfoot 9), B Clarke.
NEWCASTLE FALCONS: S Legg, T Underwood, M Shaw, J Wilkinson, V Tuigamala (sin-bin, 72-80), R Andrew, G Armstrong, G Graham, R Nesdale, I Peel (rep: S Best 65), G Archer, G Weir, P Walton, R Arnold, R Beattie (rep: H Vyvyan 37-52).
Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

Adversity brings out Sale's best

Sale 30
London Irish......................................27

By A Correspondent

"NEVER say die" seems to be Sale's new motto. In their past three Allied Dunbar Premiership matches, they have claimed seven league points, despite facing daunting double-figure deficits, with the latest display of resilience, on Saturday at Heywood Road, coming against third-placed London Irish.

It took a dropped goal in injury time from near the halfway line by Shane Howarth to seal the victory, but Dick Best, the Exiles' director of rugby, acknowledged that Sale are a far more accomplished side than their league position indicated. Their backs bridged the gulf between the sides with polished ease, yet it was a committed defensive effort in the second half that decided the outcome.

Down 0-10, Sale looked in a sorry state, but, encouraged by the openness of the proceedings, they countered with tries from Kevin Ellis and Howarth. At half-time, impressive as they looked, the Irish advantage was a mere four points.

With Sale deploying their defence more wisely after the break, the Irish offensive was contained. Thirteen minutes into the half, Phil Greening finished off a sleek passing move with a try and, although Jarrod Cunningham countered a third Howarth conversion with a penalty goal, the Wales full back had the final say.

SCORERS: Sale: Tries: Ellis (10min), Howarth (15), Greening (53). Conversions: Howarth 2. Penalty goals: Howarth 2 (21, 34). Dropped goal: Howarth (81). London Irish: Tries: Harvey (6), Gallagher (24), O'Shea (40). Conversions: Cunningham 3. Penalty goals: Cunningham 2 (4, 65)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Sale first): 0-3, 0-10, 7-10, 14-10, 17-10, 17-17, 20-17, 20-24 (half-time), 27-24, 27-27, 30-27.
SALE: J Mallinder; M Moore, J Baxendell, C Yates, (rep: B J Mather, 64min), S Hanley; S Howarth, K Ellis (rep: R Smith, 40); D Bell (rep. P Winstanley, 70), P Greening, D Theron, S Raiwalui, C Murphy (rep: D Baldwin, 55), P Anglesea, A Sanderson, D O'Cuinneagain (rep. A Morris, 9)
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, J Bishop, N Burrows, B Venter, (rep: R Todd, 9-19), J Cunningham, S Bashop, K Putt, (rep: K Campbell, 40). M Worsley (rep: N Hatley, 20), M Howe (rep. R Kirke, 40), R Hardwick (rep: K Fullman, 67), R Strudwick, N Harvey, J Boer, R Gallagher, I Feaunati.
Referee: C Rees (London).

Woodward's worries

JEREMY GUSCOTT and Jonathan Wilkinson, England's two centres, caused Clive Woodward palpitations at the weekend as the England coach ponders his line-up for the final Five Nations Championship match, against Wales at Wembley this Sunday.

For the second week running, Guscott withdrew from the Bath team because of a strained hamstring, while Wilkinson left the field during Newcastle's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Richmond with a badly swollen eye.

Their plight, though, does not compare with that of Eric Peters, the back-row forward, who fractured a kneecap during Bath's victory over Leicester: Peters had an operation yesterday to immobilise his right leg and will miss the Scotland international with France in Paris on Saturday and the Scots' summer tour to South Africa. He is unlikely to resume playing rugby until August, putting back preparations for the World Cup.

SEPTEMBER
Climax to National League
Sky Sports 1 and 3

OCTOBER
International cricket news
Sky Sports News

NOVEMBER
South Africa v England
1st Test
Sky Sports 2

DECEMBER
South Africa v England
2nd and 3rd Tests
Sky Sports 2

JANUARY
South Africa v England
4th and 5th Tests
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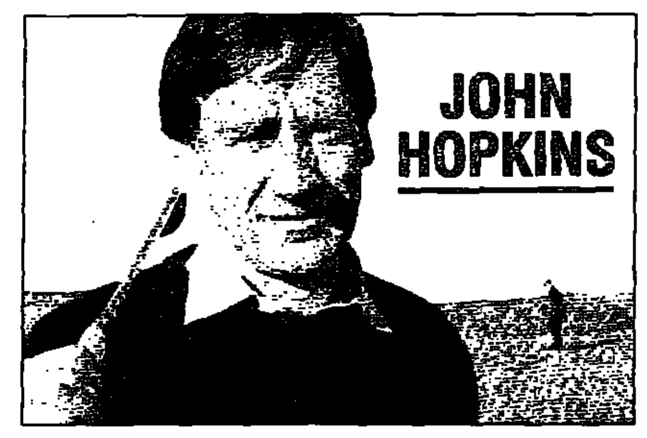


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MONDAY MATTERS

'It might sound stupid, but I've always found the rough isn't so bad in the middle of fairways'

Duval's line on life makes easy reading



JOHN HOPKINS

ERIK S. LESSER



Eagle eye: Duval, the No 1 golfer in the world, stares out from beneath his trademark black cap during an incredible run of success in the build-up to the Masters

Consider the world of David Duval as he wakes up this morning amid the dogwood and azaleas of Augusta, Georgia. It is the second week of April and, in golfing terms, that means only one thing. Unfurl the parasols on the lawn behind the Augusta National clubhouse and bring on the peach cobblers and mint juleps. It is time for the Masters.

Augusta is a small town 100 miles east of Atlanta, known for once having had the largest cotton exchange in the southern states. The Partridge Inn on Walton Way is the oldest hotel in the South of the United States and the *Augusta Chronicle* the oldest newspaper. William Makepeace Thackeray passed through it on a lecture tour and was paid 100 guineas — a plump sum from a plump city, he noted.

For 51 weeks of the year, Augusta goes about its business without impinging much upon the consciousness of the rest of the world. In the 52nd week, the eyes of the world are on Augusta National Golf Club and this year, particularly, on Duval, 27, the young man who once could not win a tournament and who now cannot lose one. He went for 92 events before he won his first (including seven times coming second), but, before the BellSouth Classic that ended in Atlanta last night, he had beaten his opponents in ten of the past 33 that he had entered. In one event that he won, his final round was a 59, arguably the greatest competitive round ever.

Many of today's golfing heroes have echoes of their forefathers. With Duval, it is Ben Hogan, who had a stare that was just as impassive and who was the last man before Duval to win his first three victories in consecutive appearances. This is not the only connection. When Hogan was 9, his father, Chester, sick with financial worries, put a gun to his head and shot himself. Tragedy visited the Duval household when David was 9 and bone marrow was extracted from his hips in an unsuccessful attempt to save the life of Brent, his 12-year-old brother, who had aplastic anaemia.

Hogan was a voracious practiser, Duval is a voracious reader, whose favourite novel is Ayn Rand's *The Fountain-head*, the story of a young architect who rails against conventional standards. Duval once set himself the task of reading 30 books in one year and managed 31. The week after his 59, while skiing in Idaho, he took a house guest into a room and pointed out the 20 volumes of the *Oxford English Dictionary* given to him as a present by his girlfriend. Duval, whose 59 had taken five hours, marvelled that these dictionaries had taken three quarters of a century to compile. "People are making a big deal out of what I've done, but it's nothing compared to this," he said, holding out one of four volumes containing words beginning with the letter S. "This took ten years."

A young man full of spikiness was how Duval had appeared to me when I first came across him at the 1992 US Open at Pebble Beach. He walked with a cocky swagger, as though he was rather pleased with himself, which, I gathered later, he was. He was pear-shaped, weighing nearly 50lb more then than he does now, and had short, fair hair

He took a distinctive and somewhat unconventional grip of his club, with both his hands rotated well to the right. That was the first stylistic solecism, I noted. The second came during the downswing, when his head swivelled towards the target.

Recently, trying to explain how he was in those days, Duval said: "What is, is. My brother died, my parents divorced ... blah, blah, blah. There is nothing I can do about it. Maybe my mechanism has not been to analyse it because it would only hinder me from going on. The bottom line is, I don't believe you are given more than you can handle and you have to find a way to cope. You can level your own playing field by understanding that life only becomes fair when you realise it is unfair. I do not wonder about, or want to share, the way I am. I am not saying my way is right. It might turn off a lot of people, but it's the way I found that suits me."

In past weeks, Duval has demonstrated what Tom Watson once noted, namely that winning breeds charisma. Duval oozed charisma long before he had that 59. He created charisma by his stony face, his obduracy, by the black cap and sunglasses, by his remarkable run of success. Now he is making a conscious effort to relate more to people who are generating such feelings of warmth towards him and he actually made rather a good joke in the aftermath of his victory in the Players Championship on Sunday last week. "It might sound stupid, but I have always found the rough isn't so bad in the middle of the fairways," he said.

At Atlanta, three days later, he had loosened up even more. "Sure I am more comfortable than two years ago. I have been playing for five years now and I am getting used to seeing the people who travel the tour and once you get familiar with the people at each spot, it gets easier to interact. I think I have done a very good job since I have been a pro, watching my time, making sure I did not overextend myself, investing my earnings, saving money, looking down the road. It hasn't changed much in the past two years I have been doing well. I don't see why it will in the future."

The plaudits are ringing out for Duval in a way that once he would not have thought was possible, but he is no more likely to be swayed by it all than Hogan was. Designing his own line of golf clothing? Hardly. Designing golf courses? Possibly, but daily fee courses, not, as he put it, "places you have to come up with $75,000 to join.

"My main agenda is to leave the world a better place than it was when I came in. I want to be a good role model, conducting myself as a professional, to act as a gentleman when I play".



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

OKbridge is a service on the Internet which provides a facility to play live bridge with other players from anywhere in the world. Today's deal was played at 60 tables within the space of about 20 minutes.

Dealer West **Game all** **Pairs**

North: ♠ K ♡ AQ86532 ◇ K9 ♣ AK6

West: ♠ 10764 ♡ J9 ◇ AJ8763 ♣ 8

East: ♠ Q9832 ♡ K4 ◇ Q1042 ♣ Q3

South: ♠ AJ5 ♡ 107 ◇ 5 ♣ J1097542

W	N	E	S
2D	Double	3D	5C
Pass	6C	All Pass	

Contract: Six Clubs by South. Lead: four of spades.

As is popular in tournament bridge, West's Two Diamonds was a Weak Two, showing a six-card suit and 6–10 high-card points. North felt that her hand was too strong for an immediate overcall and so started off with a double, intending to bid hearts at her next turn. The final contract was a good spot and odds on to succeed. Assuming that the ace of diamond is with West and that you have no trump loser, can you see a line that can succeed when the king of hearts is poorly placed?

Did you win the first trick in dummy? If so, think of another track.

The best line is to overtake the king of spades with the ace and play a diamond towards dummy's king. Assuming West takes his ace and plays another spade to force the dummy (best), ruff this and play the king of diamonds shedding a heart. Now play the ace of hearts and ruff a heart with the jack (if the king of hearts has dropped under the ace you can afford to cash one trump first). If hearts are 2-2, draw trumps and cash the hearts. If hearts are 3-1, and no one has ruffed with the queen of clubs, cross back to dummy with a trump, ruff the hearts good, draw the last trump, and cash the hearts. You make on the lay-out above, and also when hearts are 3-1 but the hand with the singleton does not have the queen of trumps.

When the deal actually occurred the slam was doomed to failure because East had all four outstanding hearts.

For more information on OKbridge, visit their website: www.okbridge.com.



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Veterans clash

Two great players who originally came from St Petersburg, but subsequently emigrated, have contested a ten-game speed chess match in their home city. Boris Spassky, the former world champion, was defeated by Viktor Korchnoi, the two-times world championship challenger. Korchnoi now represents Switzerland while Spassky represents France.

Korchnoi won games two, three, six and eight; Spassky won games one and four, while the remaining games were drawn.

White: Boris Spassky
Black: Viktor Korchnoi
St Petersburg 1999

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	Qb6
6	a3	a5
7	Bd3	Bd7
8	Bc2	h5
9	0-0	Nh6
10	b3	Be7
11	Ra2	cxd4
12	cxd4	Rc8
13	Bxh6	Rxh6
14	Qd2	Rh8
15	h4	Kf8
16	Qf4	Kg8
17	Nbd2	g6
18	Rd1	Kg7
19	Nf1	Na7
20	Ng5	Be8
21	Rd3	Nb5
22	Bd1	Rc3
23	Rad2	Qc7
24	a4	Rxd3
25	Rxd3	Nc3
26	Ng3	Nxd1
27	Rxd1	Qb6
28	Rd3	Qc7
29	Rf3	Bd8
30	Ne2	Qe7
31	Qc1	Qb4
32	Nf4	Bxg5
33	hxg5	Bc6
34	Qe3	Rc8
35	Kh2	Be8
36	Nd3	Qxb3
37	Qf4	Qxa4
38	Qf6+	Kg8
39	Nf4	Kh7
40	Nxe6	Black resigns.

White: Viktor Korchnoi
Black: Boris Spassky
St Petersburg 1999

Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	Bd2	Bg7
6	e4	Nb6
7	Be3	0-0
8	Be2	f5
9	exf5	Bxf5
10	Qb3+	Kh8
11	Nf3	Nc6
12	d5	Ne5
13	Rd1	Qc8
14	0-0	c6
15	Nd4	c5
16	Nxf5	gxf5
17	f4	Nf7
18	Rfe1	Nd6
19	Bf3	Nbc4
20	Bf2	Bf6
21	Qc2	Rb8
22	b3	Nb6
23	Ne2	c4
24	Ng3	cxb3
25	Qxb3	Qc4
26	Nh5	Qxb3
27	axb3	Nbc8
28	Nxf6	exf6
29	Re6	b6
30	Rc1	Rb7
31	Rc6	Rd7
32	Bd4	Kg7
33	g3	Kg6
34	Kg2	h5
35	Kh3	h4
36	gxh4	Ne4
37	Bxe4	fxe4
38	Bxf6	Kh7

Black resigns

Southend

A tournament on the knockout format is underway in Southend. The action can be followed on www.chess.redbus.co.uk

Scouse wit whose bad taste ruins his efforts to amuse



Matt Dickinson says Robbie Fowler might benefit from a change of scene

It cannot be long before Tony Blair breaks off from the war with Serbia to pronounce on an equally pressing matter of state. "If he did indeed snort in the way that he is said to have snorted then, yes, he has to go," the Prime Minister will pronounce and Robbie Fowler will be led off to a life of shame.

You may laugh, but no football matter is too insignificant for the politicians these days, so the Liverpool and England striker had best prepare himself for the worst. Sick, repulsive and despicable were just some of the descriptions of his goal celebrations yesterday — and that was even before the Minister for Sport had been allowed his say.

This is not to defend the 23-year-old, who, having invited Graeme Le Saux to thrust something up his backside and then pretended to shovel cocaine up his nose, must now find something to fill the space between his ears. He should have known better and his timing could not have been worse, with a trip to the Football Association pending on Friday over his taunting of Le Saux. He cannot expect a sympathetic hearing and he does not deserve one.

But call him stupid, ban him for a few games if you must, but spare us, please, from all the moral indignation over his idiotic stunt. "Fowler never thought about the kids or the wretched screams of tortured souls hooked on drugs," one newspaper served up yesterday, ensuring more wretched screams from its tortured readers. Not even Fowler would be daft enough to endorse cocaine, although some pop groups manage to get away with it without being banned from the airwaves.

So why on earth did Fowler do it? To get up the noses, so to speak, of Everton fans is the obvious answer, after they had voiced the long-running and unfounded rumours about his drug-taking.

"It got to the point where people were shouting 'druggie' and 'smackhead' at me," Fowler explained earlier this season and he hoped, in his usual misguided manner, to prove himself untouched.

A deeper explanation — and forgive any attempt at amateur psychology — is that Fowler was once again proving rather eager to please. Not the nation, of course, who will now moralise about his antics more than they fret over the bombing of Serbia, but the pocket of Merseyside mates who have been his friends since youth and to whom he remains remarkably loyal. Far from shunning him, they will be slapping him on the back. "Nice one, Robbie," they will be saying, just as they did when he wore a T-shirt in support of the sacked Liverpool dockers and as they did when he waggled his bum at Le Saux.

And that, perhaps, is Fowler's problem — the world does not appear to exist beyond the Mersey tunnel he sometimes comes across as though he would be happy playing against Everton every week. While Steve McManaman, his great friend, has decided to seek out the wider world in Madrid next season, Fowler has just signed a new five-year deal to stay in Liverpool.

His loyalty to his home town, aided by at least £30,000 a week, is to be admired, but, increasingly, he may regret it. Alex Ferguson wanted to take him to Old Trafford last year and Arsène Wenger would happily have broken Arsenal's transfer record to lure him to London this summer. Fowler knew of the interest from Highbury but he opted to stay at Anfield and it is not only his football that may suffer.

A move, even to Manchester, would have opened his mind a little and shown him that the Scouse humour does not always travel well. He may have learnt, without the need for the FA punishment that is inevitable this week, that there is a stage when homophobic mickey-taking becomes a little more sinister. He may have learnt the difference between "a joke", as he described his goal celebration on Saturday, and a brainless stunt.

But without the chance to move away, one wonders where he will learn his lesson. Not from Gérard Houllier, it would appear, who looked distinctly dumb on Saturday night as he attempted to laugh off Fowler's antics as "eating grass". The Frenchman cannot really expect us to believe that he is that naive.

He should punish Fowler quickly in the vain hope that the FA will be more lenient and perhaps then it would bring a swifter end to an entirely regrettable incident.

Otherwise, the rest of us will have to batten down the hatches and get out the sandbags because a tidal wave of moral indignation is heading our way. Fowler deserves to have the book thrown at him just for that.

RUSSELL BOYCE

Fowler makes the unseemly gesture at Le Saux for which he must answer to the FA at a hearing later this week

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PEDALFER
a. A pedal boat
b. Soil
c. A tree with cones

RINCEAU
a. A verse form
b. A streamlet
c. A scroll

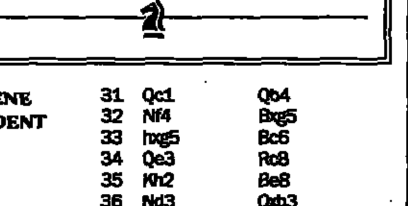
SALSA
a. Sauce
b. Salt
c. The peak of a minaret

OORIAL
a. A sheep
b. On the ceiling
c. A silk/cotton material

Answers on page 44

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Koenig — Bakker, Parsippany 1999.

White has a powerful concentration of force on the e- and f-files. How did he make the most of this?

Solution on page 44

THIS SPORTING WEEK IN THE TIMES

Tomorrow: Brian Clarke's monthly fishing column; plus full reports on the Easter football programme. **Wednesday:** Manchester United v Juventus — the build-up to the big match. **Thursday:** Chelsea v Real Mallorca, Cup Winners' Cup preview. **Friday:** The Masters — first day report. **Saturday:** Full-colour guide and expert tips on the Grand National from Aintree

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHT

FOR fans awaiting their annual fix of golf and greenery from Augusta, BBC2's **The Magic of the Masters** (today, 7pm) provides enough choice cuts from previous years to whet the appetite for a whole season. Alan Hansen, of footballing renown, introduces clips of Sarazen, Faldo and Nicklaus, plus Larry Mize on one of the great winning shots of all time.

LYNNE TRUSS

It must be worse for Tim Henman himself; that's the only consolation. Being told continually to "Come on" by unimaginative fans must be the most aggravating thing in the world. He leaves the house in the morning and is spotted by a child on a trike. "Come on Tim!" the child lisps. He walks to the paper shop and is seen by people on a passing bus. "Come on Tim!" they yell, through the windows. He purchases a pint of milk. "Come on Tim!" quips the woman at the till, as he sorts through his change. When he and his girlfriend, Lucy, are late for a party because he is drying his hair, she must be under strict instruction to say only: "Nearly ready, then?" and "Tell you what, I'll start the car!" The day she forgets and orders him to "Come on", I fear the relationship will be very swiftly at an end.

One would hate for tennis fans to start singing about walking in a Henman Wonderland (or indeed, about tennis coming home), but this over-eager croquet-club chorus of "Come on Tim" has just got to stop before it drives everybody insane. Surely there are other ways of encouraging a person, stiffening their sinews, egging them on, showing them you care? I mean, what about "*Go* on, Tim", just for a change? Or even "Tim, Tim, pick up thy musket"? Don't people realise that it sounds rather desperate, anyway, to keep saying "Come on Tim"? It implies Tim is dragging his size elevens. It implies he doesn't appreciate the seriousness of the situation, or doesn't care. How very annoying it must be to be told to "Come on", in any case, when you are clearly coming on as fast as you possibly can.

Henman does not grin and bear this torrent of goodwill; he maintains a sulky concentration and rarely acknowledges the crowd, even when the yelling reaches the sort of unprecedented pitch heard this weekend at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, between every single point played. Doesn't he get headaches? I know I did. The damn lighting was bad enough. Add to that the constant smell of food when you can't bear to leave your seat and the ever-present danger that Cliff will entertain you. But the worst thing is the noise. Not because I'm a killjoy (really), but because it lurches so drastically between utter silence and thunderous claxon-and-rattle din — alternating the two conditions approximately every 20 seconds for hour after hour — that in the end you just can't stand it.

As the weekend wore on, of course, the crowd grew ever louder. This cup-tie will be famous for the volume of noise, if for nothing else, but the effect was odd. People blew whistles, as if at a Brazilian football match; they waved flags and hammered their heels on the floor. And in the end, the drama of the event certainly merited such a reaction, but somehow (how can I put this?) *tennis* still deserved something more refined.

Perhaps the problem is that tennis fans yell regardless of whether their chap is up or down; tiresomely, they exhort him either way. Also, because their celebratory noises have to be kick-started from silence every time, they seem about as spontaneous as a Robbie Fowler goal celebration stunt. I'm sure our brave tennis boys are not a bit ungrateful for the phenomenal, historic support they received, but, by the end of it, I'm sure they'd have worn ear-plugs if the rules had allowed.

Perhaps I'm just trying to explain why this Davis Cup-tie against the United States was actually almost unbearable to watch. Witnessing history unfold is a privilege that should never be understated, but if you also develop ulcers and earache in the process it's only honest to admit it. So actually, speaking frankly, the Davis Cup was pure torture, wasn't it? It was no fun at all. So much at stake; so much to prove; the best chance of winning such a match in all our lifetimes.

It was not relaxing, nor could it be. And "Come on" just came nowhere near the feelings for Tim and Greg yanking your heart around in its ghastly tour of the chestal cavity for three days' solid watching.

I mean, take Henman's match on Friday. During his five-setter against Jim Courier, Henman twice broke back identically only to lose sets at the tie-break. Twice my heart actually stopped functioning and I had to use the emergency generator. He broke back again in the fourth and reached another tie-break, so I decided this was getting too much like *Groundhog Day* and I wasn't going to try not to care any more — at which point, he heroically won the fourth-set tie-break, defending four match points in the process. Blimey. Such courage. Such resilience. Such a macho gesture, moreover, involving fist and snarl. "Come on Tim" I blurted at last, and then kicked myself for it. (Damn.)

An odd change overtook the Great Britain bench overnight, incidentally, between Friday and Saturday. On Friday, the American support were alone in jumping up and applauding their chap, the Brits instead adopting the hunched posture of defeat that comes so naturally to us. The difference between the two teams was marked. Red-shirted Americans were forever leaping to their feet, saluting each other with high fives and even grabbing neighbours around the hips, as if tennis were ice hockey or something teamy and locker-roomy and contact-sporty like that. Meanwhile, the reserved Brits gave the impression that they didn't know where to look.

Yet by Saturday, all this had changed. Greg and Tim had evidently practised high fives all night until they got them right ("Right hand? Right. Like this? Harder? No, you first. Oh, I see"), and David Lloyd had orchestrated his men to leap to their feet and clap as if spontaneously moved to do so. Perhaps they rang Kevin Keegan and asked for the name of his mysterious motivational chap. Or perhaps they got Kevin Keegan. Either way, it was the fastest known case of chaps progressing from "Sorry, I'm afraid I have a touch taboo" to "Hey, I really love you, man" that has ever occurred in full view of an adoring crowd who just wanted everyone to *Come on*.

MARC ASPLAND



Henman's parents, bottom left, lead the applause for yesterday's four-set win over Martin

Masterful recollection of golf's golden moments

If your heart lifts at the sight of an impossible chip, a miraculous putt or Seve Ballesteros in hipster flares with a white belt, then Alan Hansen's *Magic of the Masters* will make pretty absorbing viewing tonight on BBC2. Personally, I have watched it twice and may watch it again.

Golfers bathed in golden light recollect the day they made "birdie, birdie, birdie" or struck "the sweetest putt of my life". Balls travel in perfect arcs over emerald velvet to drop with exquisite precision in the hole. Galleries leap and cheer in terrible clothes. Men drop to their knees and cry. And meanwhile, for those who love a novelty, Nick Faldo is observed to smile on two quite separate occasions.

To anyone less convinced by the glory of golf, however, there is the scandalously tasty case of the erroneous scorecard, which, in its absurdity, will confirm everything they ever disliked about the game.

This doubtless legendary incident occurred after the final round in 1968, when Roberto De Vicenzo, of Argentina, signed a scorecard filled in incorrectly and found that he had thereby not forced a play-off (as he thought), but had instead lost. Common sense would call for the Tippex, of course, but alas, common sense's opinion was not solicited. "Rules are rules," Augusta said.

De Vicenzo had signed for a four on the 17th when, in front of millions of people, he had shot a three. If he must return to Buenos Aires with a flea in his ear, he had only *himself* to blame.

Are there any golfers who don't remember how they approached the 16th on the Saturday in 1962? Obviously, it would make inferior telly if they recollected with certainty only the colour of their umbrella and the mashed potato afterwards, but after a while it seems slightly spooky that they can recall every shot in illuminated detail.

"It was a downhill lie, the wind had changed direction, I was two shots behind and there was a woman in a lemon scarf," they say of a moment 35 years ago, picking it from a lifetime's career. "I decided that fortune favours the brave, so I selected my two-iron." One starts to wonder (mischievous thought) that perhaps they watch old videos of themselves in the evenings.

Still, at least they feel flattered to be asked and are polite enough to reply. Imagine Alan Shearer as a top golfer, bathed in golden etc etc. "Talk us through that momentous round," the interviewer urges, with an encouraging smile. Shearer sticks out his bottom lip while his little eyes assume a challenging expression. "You tell me," he says. "That's your job; that's not my job. You tell me about that momentous round if you're so keen to talk about it."

The *Magic of the Masters* does clear up a few things I'd been wondering about. What happens at the apostolic jacket ceremony if last year's winner wins it again? Answer: he just puts the jacket on. (fair enough.)

What happens if you are colour-blind and can't figure out the cunningly colour-coded scoreboard? Answer: you ask your caddie: "How many of those ones are red?" And he replies: "Just yours, boss."

It is a shame they don't show the 1998 Butler Cabin ceremony, when Tiger Woods held the jacket for Mark O'Meara so high that the poor chap couldn't get his arm in. I have been enjoying telling that story. Instead, they show him getting it right outdoors and now nobody will believe me that I ever saw anything else.

Toby's boat race a televisual treat

Interesting that Woody Allen should have described the satiric point of his new film *Celebrity* the night before the Boat Race, which in a single television sitting transformed Toby Wallace (a humble Cambridge rower, who sits at the back) into someone you'd be glad to see with his own breakfast show. At midday on Saturday I'd never heard of him, but by four o'clock I was wondering whether he ought to get together with Trude from *Vets in Practice*.

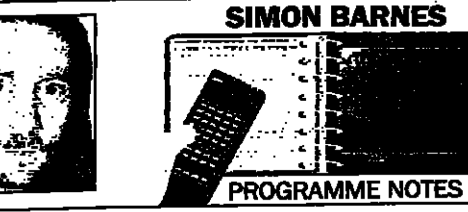
And I have to admit it spiced up the race — almost managing to disguise the utter lack of suspense generated each and every year by one crew pulling ahead initially and then inexorably increasing their lead. As a calendar event, the Boat Race compels attention and I attended it every year when I lived in Putney, even purchasing a larky commemorative Boat Race cake from a local bakery. But I grew wary of it, especially after the tenth year of getting wet and not having a clue who won, and the cake being a crushing disappointment.

So good luck to the Toby initiative, which will open up and personalise the Boat Race for self-excluded oiks like me, whose schools had neither wet bobs nor dry bobs (or, indeed, any bobs at all). Perhaps after university Toby could get a job at the airport or in a ski lodge, so that he can stay on telly. The only problem with his celebrity CV is that he rows a bit. But I suppose he could drop that, if his agent thought it best.

METAPHORS continue to slip the cuffs in the world of sport. It was ever thus, of course, but that's no reason not to be delighted by the image conjured by the Cambridge rowing coach on Saturday to the effect that his crew's butterflies had to be kept on the boil so that they didn't peak too soon. An ex-Arsenal player, asked how he coped with the expectations the Arsenal "mantle" confers, agreed that the mantle was a problem, since it did pursue him. Expect nightmares featuring a stew of Lepidoptera and a sleeveless cloak swooping over stadiums in avenging fashion.

Shame about the fizz fiasco





SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

These were some of the most shocking pictures ever broadcast. I can see that I am going to have to construct a new world view after watching them. All my most cherished beliefs are in tatters.

It happened shortly after the 145th occasion of what the beak who tried Bertie Wooster called "the annual aquatic contest between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge" (Bertie was fined £5 for his part in the pinching of a policeman's helmet).

The winning Cambridge crew were presented with what I guessed was a jeroboam of champagne — and over the course of five of the most excruciating minutes ever seen on television, failed to open it. I thought that opening bottle of champagne was something that students at the older universities did more or less on a daily basis.

But no. We had a pulling and twisting and a bit of half-hearted Formula One shaking as well and nothing would budge the bloody cork. Big boys, not lacking in physical strength, as the previous 16½ minutes had shown — but not one had the man-of-the-worldliness required to get at the contents of a bottle of champagne.

It went on and on, for impossible lengths of time, while we at home watched and made would-be helpful gestures, making in dumb-show that oh-so-easy twist of the right hand, aided by a fair white napkin for extra grip.

In the end — shattering any remaining confidence I had in the present generation of students — they gave up. A student who gets halfway through opening a bottle of champagne lives a life I cannot begin to imagine.

I was reminded of the headline that accompanied another famous literary visit before the beak: Sebastian, in *Brideshead Revisisted*: "Marquis's son unused to wine". The entire eight looked like precisely that: marquis's sons unused to wine.

The Boat Race is one of the BBC's annually most successful exports. It is hard to see why — and by see, I mean looking at pictures. There are 16 big chaps and a couple of little people propelling splinters of wood down a not especially sumptuous stretch of the Thames. But this is one of the British or English events that is dominated by the sense of occasion. There are a good number of these. Perhaps one could come up with graded sequence of how much relevance the actual sport has to the sense of occasion in this distinctly rummy series of events.

Henley has become a strange occasion, in which the hardest and toughest of oarsmen never really know if they come there with resentment of the boozing over-dressed throng, or with delight. Royal Ascot would be the same occasion if they ran selling platers instead of the best horses in training.

The Grand National makes splendid pictures of course, but there is the same feeling that the BBC is selling not so much sport as history: and an odd feeling that it is selling the country as a kind of *Last Night of the Proms* pantomime, a Disneyland of quaint and curious folk.

Try watching Wimbledon in the United States. They promote the tournament not with pictures of Wimbledon Common and Plough Lane and the Dog and Fox but with pictures of Trooping the Colour and the Houses of Parliament.

With Wimbledon, they sell great sport with a kind of pleasingly patronising garnish. Wimbledon is the most sought-after of all the Grand Slam tournaments, because it mixes the action with the history, with my-how-quaintness. It is the great Bertie Wooster Ride at Theme Park UK.

All the BBC can do, I suppose, it to play it straight and, indeed, the Boat Race is great sport, a duel in which the first blow is decisive. But the opponent does not drop dead. Instead, he bleeds to death in slow motion — precisely the course of the race of Saturday.

The coverage caught the decisive moment: the clash of blades, the sudden veering of Oxford that cost them perhaps a third of a length at the moment of psychological truth. Oddly enough, it was not made that much of by the commentators, but the pictures said it all.

And then to the finish and what is always the saddest picture, in purely sporting terms — the losing crew. Even the winners can hardly raise a smile at the end, so knackering is this four-and-a-bit miles of water. For the losers, it is almost beyond bearing.

In the end, though, I did not despair entirely of studentkind. The final picture of the celebrations showed us some excellent footage of the Cambridge bow-man, T. J. Wallace, repeatedly snogging the cox, V. Sharif. We will have to go the official stats-man for the final count, but there were getting on for half-a-dozen lip-to-lip smackers. And what, I thought forgivingly at the close, is champagne to the man who tastes such delights?

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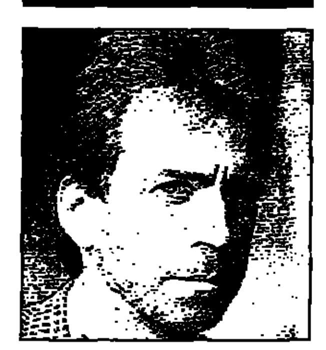
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Dunwoody on brink of new record at Wincanton but for how long will it stand?

Pushing the barriers to new frontiers

ALAN LEE



Racing Commentary

Stan Mellor was the Duracell jockey of his generation, relentless and efficient. By 1972, he had ridden more winners than the legends of jump racing but he faced a personal dilemma. "I had the chance to start training but I reckoned if I rode for two more years I would set a record that could never be beaten." He chuckled at the memory. "I'm glad I didn't because that turned out to be rubbish."

As records go, Mellor's figure still proved a lasting benchmark. His career total of 1,035 winners stood for 12 years. Since then, though, it has been passed three times, the previously implausible now close to commonplace. Mellor, who will be 62 on Saturday, remains philosophical. "Things change so fast. What we think of as exceptional now will seem like nothing in 20 years' time."

By then, no doubt, Tony McCoy will have broken the 2,000-winner barrier and his successor as champion will be propelling the record still further into the stratosphere. Richard Dunwoody, who should today meet his appointment with destiny and become the historical No 1, will rank among the also-rans with Mellor.

All of sport is pushing back boundaries. Professionalism, both in money and attitude, has dragged the unattainable into the daily marketplace but the sport of National Hunt seems to be undergoing particular and prolonged revolution. No record is safe.

In 1978, when Jonjo O'Neill completed a season with 149 winners, we all sighed with the self-importance of witnesses to something indelible. Yet by 1989, Peter Scudamore was riding 221 in a season.

That same year, the trainers' championship underwent such an astonishing change of pace that it would never be the same. In 1987-88, David Elsworth won the title with 50 winners; 12 months later, the champion's total of winners was 208. His name, of course, was Pipe and he was to be the most active catalyst for all that has altered in the sport.

"The biggest change," Mellor mused thoughtfully, "is that there was nobody like Martin Pipe in my day. He has challenged so much." As the accepted conventions of training have been abandoned, first by Pipe and later, imitatively, by many of his peers, so the lifestyle and expectations of jockeys have been transformed. His own jockeys have become guaranteed champions, so long as they could stomach the pace of life, and others have reacted with competitive aggression, sparing nothing and nobody in the search for winners.

Mellor, who still trains a small string near Swindon, bears none of the grudges that sit uncomfortably on so many whose deeds are turned to sepia. "I have nothing against the modern way at all but it's so different. I rode in a wonderful time, with great characters as colleagues, but we didn't approach it in the same way.

"Youngsters get more opportunities these days, thanks to the conditional jockeys' scheme, and horses are better schooled before they get to the racecourse. Then there are videos, through which jockeys will watch themselves and improve their methods. But the biggest change has come through the agents.

"Nobody thought about having an agent when I rode and it wasn't even done to ring up trainers for rides. There was only one who did so regularly, Tim Molony, and we all called him Telephone Tim. Generally, we were like wallflowers, sitting around and waiting to be asked."

Thirty years ago, when Mellor was champion jockey for the first time, he rode just 68 winners. Upwards of ten jockeys will ride more than that this season and while videos, agents, increased fixtures and improved travel have all played their part, the greatest factor is an altered philosophy.

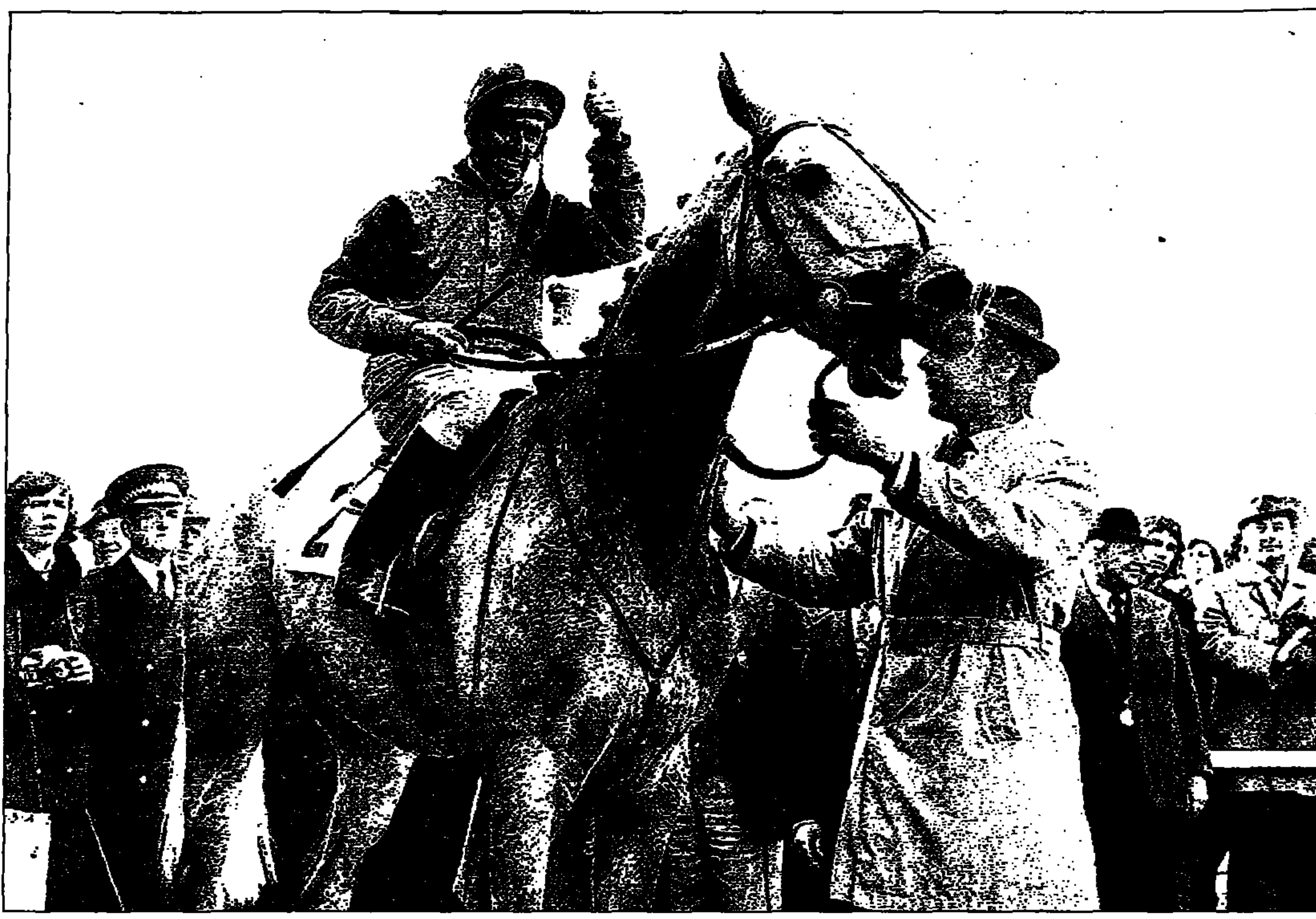
Every generation will look on their successors with a patronising pity. It happens in all walks of life. Mellor and his pals, such as Terry Biddlecombe and Jeff King, approached life and work in a cavalier way that was already obsolete when Scudamore began his years of domination. Now, another discernible gear-shift has ushered in McCoy. Scudamore was at Newton Abbot on Saturday, wearing the benign smile of one reconciled to the rewriting of his own little piece of history. Briefly, like Mellor, he had deceived himself that his record would stand forever but now he sees the folly of the thought.

In his time, Scudamore was considered an iceman, single-minded in his dedication to number crunching, yet he observes those who ride now and sees it is different again. For that reason, he doubts that Dunwoody will linger long once the record is his, for already he is a generation apart.

Needing three more winners to satisfy the posse of photographers and history-seekers who had made the pilgrimage to South Devon, Dunwoody rode just one on Saturday. For the sake of credibility, perhaps it was as well, for there had been the sobering prospect of National Hunt's proudest record being equalled in a selling chase and beaten in the concluding bumper. Instead, the show rolls lucratively on to Wincanton today.

Dunwoody is enjoying the attention, and the perversity of the wait, but he knows that a peep over his shoulder espies the fanatical McCoy, already halfway to the record after only five seasons. Much the most memorable sight of Saturday was McCoy riding Belle D'Orsini for Pipe, his saddle slipped forward so far after the second hurdle that it seemed he must pull up. Instead, balanced precariously, he pushed and shoved demonically to finish third.

Dunwoody marvelled with the rest of us; he knows his time at the top may be limited. An hour later, Paul Nicholls, the latest challenger to Pipe's supremacy, stood in the winner's enclosure basking in the fulfilment of breaking £1 million in prize-money. When, he was asked, did he think it was possible? "Never," he said cheerfully. In this sport, however, we should never say never again.



Mellor is led into the winner's enclosure aboard Ouzo at Nottingham in December 1971 after becoming the first jockey to ride 1,000 winners

Struggles Glory shines in winning return

POINT-TO-POINT
BY CARL EVANS

WITH many top pointers progressing to National Hunt racing this season — Grand National favourite, Double Thriller, among them — the return of Struggles Glory at the **Ashford Valley** meeting on Saturday was significant.

Struggles Glory missed last season through injury but was a brilliant novice in 1997 and showed that he retained the talent with an emphatic victory over three rivals in the Land Rover qualifier at odds of 6-4. "I didn't intend to make so much use of him but they could never get to us," was the assessment of David Robinson, his rider.

The Parish Pump (9-4) overcame a similarly lengthy period on the sidelines when winning at the **Vale Of Lune**, providing Richard Ford with his first victory for two seasons. Referring to his wife, Carrie, who trains The Parish Pump, Ford said: "She's done unbelievably well to get the horse back to health."

The highlight at the **Ledbury** meeting was the duel between Camp Bank and Down The Mine in the mixed open. Alison Dare attempted to make all on Down The Mine but his 7lb penalty, and a mistake at the last, helped Camp Bank (evens) to victory by a length. The winner formed part of a double for Julian Pritchard but Adrian Wintle, 23, managed his first treble, on Black Serene (8-1), Sally's Twins (5-4) and Jolly Jack (8-1).

TODAY'S MEETINGS: East Kent at Aldington, 6m S of Ashford (2.0); **Eggesford** at Bishopsleigh, 8m NW of Crediton (1.30); **Essex Farmers** at Marks Tey 6m W of Colchester (2.0); **Four Burrow** at Wadebridge (moved from Trebudannon) W of town (2.0); **Morpeth** at Tranwell, 3m SW of Morpeth (1.0); **N Cotswold** at Paxford, 4m NW of Moreton-in-Marsh (2.0); **Old Berks** at Lockinge, 2m S of Wantage (2.0); **Southdown & Eridge** at Heathfield, just E of town (2.0); **S Notts** at Thorpe Lodge, 4m SW of Newark (2.0); **S Pembs** at Lydstep, 3m S of Tenby (1.0); **S Shrops** at Eyton-on-Severn, 7m SE of Shrewsbury (1.0); **Staintondale** at Charm Pk, 6m SW of Scarboro (2.0); **Taunton Vale** at Kingston St Mary, 4m N of Taunton (2.0); **Vine & Craven** at Hackwood, 2m S of Basingstoke (2.0). **TOMORROW: Croome & W Warwicks** at Upton-on-Severn, 8m S of Worcester (1.0); **High Peak** at Flagg Moor, 6m SE of Buxton (2.0)



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DRIVERS

GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 Mika Hakkinen	07 Eddie Irvine	12 Ralf Schumacher	18 Jarno Trulli
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 H-H Frentzen	19 Rubens Barrichello
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 Alexander Wurz	20 Pedro Diniz
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Toranosuke Takagi*	21 Pedro de la Rosa
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 Ricardo Zonta	22 Luca Badoer**
06 Jacques Villeneuve		17 Marc Gene	

* Replaced Mika Salo
** Replaced Norberto Fontana

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C			GROUP D		
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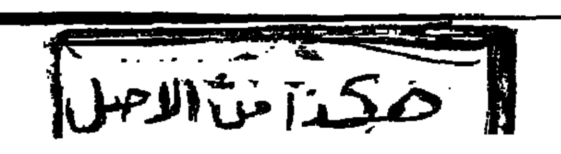
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UTTOXETER

ROB WRIGHT
2.15 Roker Joker · 2.50 Northern Maestro · 3.25 Steeples Lad · 4.00 Edmond · 4.35 Grizzly Bear · 5.10 Bora Bora

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

2.15 JENKINSONS CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,?5: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 F10 CORNICHE 18 (S) C Keller 4-11-12 .... L Harvey
2 10 ENIPEUS 18 (B,S) M Pipe 4-11-11 .... M Foster
3 F0 RIVERBANK ROSE 9 (F,G,S) W Clay 8-11-6 .... G Tormey
4 46 FERRERS 17 (G,S) Mrs P Sly 8-11-6 .... Mr S Stronge (7)
5 11 ROKER JOKER 26 (D,S) R Peacock 8-11-6 .... C Webb
6 34 DANGEROUS GUEST 13 (S) J Old 7-11-0 .... T J Murphy
7 50 ROCKCLIFFE GOSSIP 37 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-12 .... C Llewellyn
8 50 TIME FOR A GLASS 12 (S) M Wilkinson 6-10-4 .... Gary Lyons

2.50 PETER J DOUGLAS ENGINEERING LTD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,784: 2m 4f 110yd) (18)

3.25 MOBILEFONE GROUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,061: 3m 110yd) (11)

4.00 L W HOPKINSON BUILDING & JOINERY CONTRACTORS NOVICES CHASE (£3,583: 3m 2f) (8)

4.35 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN HANDICAP CHASE (£4,41?: 3m) (9)

5.10 BL HOPKINSON CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING MARES NOVICES HURDLE (£3,100: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

NOTTINGHAM

ROB WRIGHT

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT · DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH BEST · SIS

2.10 BECOME A 1999 ANNUAL MEMBER AT NOTTINGHAM SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,884: 5f) (9 runners)

2.40 NOTTINGHAM RACECOURSE CONFERENCE CENTRE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,723: 5f 13yd) (10)

3.10 ROBIN HOOD STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,805: 5f) (12)

3.45 EASTER MONDAY FUNDAY AT NOTTINGHAM HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,162: 6f 15yd) (20 runners)

4.20 RMB HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,045: 1m 2f) (9)

4.55 COME RACING AT NOTTINGHAM HANDICAP (£3,015: 1m 6f 15yd) (18)

5.25 276 DAYS LEFT IN THE MILLENNIUM COUNTDOWN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,162: 1m 54yd) (18)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WETHERBY

ROB WRIGHT
2.20 Topothenorthracing · 2.55 Keen To The Last · 3.25 Samakaan · 3.55 Unguided Missile · 4.30 Grate Deel · 5.05 Blaze Of Oak

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 WHARFEDALE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,303: 2m 7f) (17 runners)

1 /12- TRAP DANCER 583 (T,BF,F,G) W Amos 11-11-13 .... Miss V Roberts (7)
2 0-1F MOONSHINE DANCER 9 (C,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-11-12 .... D Elsworth (7)
3 30-F ETERNAL CITY 63 (F,G) N Richards 8-11-10 .... B Harding
4 0/02 SPLENDID OCCASION 14 W Cunningham 9-11-4 .... N Smith
5 3P06 JOHNS THE BOY 89 (F,G,S) N Mason 13-11-4 .... Mr L McGrath (7)
6 0002 NOBLE NORMAN 14 (G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-3 .... P Niven
7 422P LAKE OF LOUGHREA 135 (V,T,G) J Mackie 9-11-1 .... N Hannity (5)

2.55 HUDDERSFIELD NOVICES CHASE (£3,925: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

3.25 ARKENDALE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,128: 2m) (15)

3.55 WETHERBY HANDICAP CHASE (£8,309: 3m 1f) (6)

4.30 LEEDS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,419: 3m 1f) (9)

5.05 WILSTROP AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,583: 2m) (13)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HUNTINGDON

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Rival Bid · 2.30 Charley Lambert · 3.00 Ardfinnan · 3.30 Seabrook Lad · 4.05 Filscot · 4.35 Tom Silk · 5.05 Wunjo

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.00 SPRINGTIME SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,926: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

1 00P- BILLY BOX 20F (D,G) I Balding 7-11-10 .... Mr C Bonner
2 40/0 RIVAL BID 48F (T) Mrs N Macauley 11-11-8 .... Mr R Forristal (5)
3 3505 MULTI FRANCHISE 21 (S) Mrs L Jewell 6-11-5 .... M Griffiths (5)
4 3-0P DIGITAL OPTION 26F (V) Mrs N Macauley 5-11-2 .... M Richards
5 0530 FORESTRY 31 M Wilkinson 5-11-2 .... J R Kavanagh
6 2000 PANDORAS LORD 20 J Wainwright 5-11-0 .... E Callaghan
7 P604 TIE BREAK 12 (B) J Joseph 4-10-11 .... J Goldstein (3)

2.30 MAGPAS NOVICES CHASE (£3,136: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

3.00 HUNTINGDON ASSOCIATION OF TOURISM MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,962: 2m 5f 110yd) (11)

3.30 HUGO BEVAN 25TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,288: 3m) (10)

4.05 HOBBLING HUGO HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,542: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

4.35 'BEVAN BLIND PANIC' NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,792: 2m 110yd) (7)

5.05 EASTERTIDE MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,882: 2m 110yd) (19)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WARWICK

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Layan · 2.30 Barringer · 3.00 Port Meadow · 3.35 La Tiziana · 4.15 Mancala · 4.50 Granny's Pet · 5.20 Kram

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 SUNRISE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,881: 5f) (10 runners)

2.30 EASTER EGG MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,762: 5f) (8)

3.00 SPRING HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,881: 1m 2f 169yd) (12)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

3.35 BLOOMING HANDICAP (£4,240: 1m 2f 169yd) (19)

4.15 WARWICK CARNIVAL CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,758: 1m 4f 115yd) (8)

4.50 WEST MIDLANDS CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,634: 7f) (7)

5.20 EASTER HANDICAP (£3,052: 5f) (18)

MARKET RASEN

ROB WRIGHT
2.15 Legend Of Love · 2.45 Pornic · 3.20 Stay With Me · 3.55 Oscail An Doras · 4.30 Hot 'n Saucy · 5.00 Howyoudoing · 5.30 Obelisk

GOING: GOOD

2.15 'PAY AND PLAY GOLF' SELLING HURDLE (£1,660: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 1331 LEGEND OF LOVE 13 (T,CD,S) B Llewellyn 4-11-8 .... M H Naughton (5)
2 -240 HAPPY MEDIUM 39F (V) G Enright 6-11-0 .... C Rafter (7)
3 606P OUR MAN FLIN 94 (D) Mrs A E Johnson 6-11-0 .... A Maguire
4 05 PETER PERFECT 40 (V) Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-0 .... G Lee
5 P00 UNITUS 17F (T) M Chapman 6-11-0 .... W Worthington
6 0-00 MIRY LEADER 135 V Thompson 6-10-9 .... Mr M Thompson
7 0 CAMPIONE 40 M Tompkins 4-10-8 .... D Yellowlees (7)
8 00 DORRINGTON 47 (V) B Baugh 4-10-8 .... A S Smith
9 ALWENA 81F (V) A Streeter 4-10-3 .... T Eley

4-7 Legend Of Love, 9-2 Happy Medium, 10-1 Our Man Flin, 14-1 others.

2.45 GEOFFREY BOOTH MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£3,977: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

3.20 CARAVAN & CAMPING SITE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,999: 2m 3f 110yd) (9)

3.55 VICTOR LUCAS MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,925: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)

4.30 EASTER MONDAY NH NOVICES HURDLE (£3,272: 2m 3f 110yd) (13)

5.00 WEST LINDSEY EASTER CUP (NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE) (£3,755: 3m 1f) (10)

5.30 'GOLFING VENUE' STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,567: 1m 5½f) (14)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

NEWCASTLE

ROB WRIGHT
2.15 Fez · 2.50 Mungo Park · 3.20 Persian Fayre · 3.50 Catriona · 4.25 Fnan · 5.00 Impulsive Air (nb)

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 BEST MUSIC METRO FM NOVICE STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,048: 5f) (9 runners)

1 (1) 1 CHIKO 10 (D,S) (J Starbuck) J L Harris 9-0 .... R Winston (3) 32
2 (4) BEST MUSIC METROFM (C Castle) D Eddy 8-12 .... R FitzPatrick (5) —
3 (3) GARTH POOL (Lord Mostyn) J Berry 8-12 .... J Weaver —
4 (6) 5 MASTER FAY 5 (Mrs J Hills) M Channon 8-12 .... T Quinn 34
5 (8) 4 RATHCLOGHEENDANCER 10 (C Darley) K Ryan 8-12 .... A McCarthy (3) 16
6 (7) BEBE DE CHAM (Lovely Bubbly Racing) J Eyre 8-7 .... C Lowther —
7 (5) FEZ (Earl of Burlington) M Johnston 8-7 .... D Holland —
8 (9) 04 FOREST QUEEN 6 (P Cooper) K Hogg 8-7 .... P Fessey 49
9 (2) NATSMAGIRL (D & A Yates) M Wane 8-7 .... J Carroll —

BETTING: 3-1 Garth Pool, 4-1 Fez, 9-2 Chiko, 5-1 Rathcloghenndancer, 8-1 Master Fay, 10-1 Bebe de Cham, Forest Queen, 14-1 others.

1998: PRINCIPALITY 8-12 K Darley (4-9 fav) J Berry 6 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

2.50 GNER HANDICAP (£3,648: 5f) (14 runners)

3.20 JOHN BARRAS HANDICAP (£3,778: 7f) (17 runners)

3.50 TYNE & WEAR METRO MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,631: 1m) (6 runners)

4.25 SARAH JANE ANDERSON MAIDEN STAKES (£3,599: 1m 4f 93yd) (9 runners)

5.00 EASY FAVOURITES MAGIC 1152 HANDICAP (£2,750: 1m) (18 runners)

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE.

FORM ANALYSIS David Nicholls was determined that should sand specialist Rambo Waltzer be in good shape after landing his first turf win for two years at Catterick (7f) last Wednesday, the horse would head here. Even with his 6lb penalty Rambo Waltzer looks capable of defying this mark on turf. However, ABEREEN could be the one racing off a mark 31lb below his latest run on the sand. He is not as good on turf but his last success on it came off a mark 9lb higher than today. On his last sand run he was third to King Priam at Southwell (1m), which gives him the definite edge over Dancing Lawyer, 6l off King Priam when third in the ladies handicap at Doncaster (1m2f). A good alternative is Celestial Welcome who was in great heart last spring, winning her first four starts, the latest, at Redcar last May, from just a 3lb lower mark. She was then rested for three months and failed to show her old sparkle, but if refreshed will make a bold bid. Almazhar was three-quarters of a length ahead of Shontaine (below par at Wolverhampton since) when second to Without Friends at Southwell (1m) and now enjoys a 5lb pull.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
J Dunlop	14	48	29.2	T Quinn	5	26	19.2
B Ellison	3	16	18.8	J Weaver	24	129	18.6
A Bailey	4	22	18.2	D Holland	15	81	18.5
M Johnston	25	153	16.3	R Winston	4	33	12.1
B Hanbury	3	19	15.8	J Carroll	15	161	9.3
M Wane	5	32	15.6	T Williams	8	88	-9 1
J Berry	17	125	13.6	A Culhane	7	125	5.6
J Glover	3	23	13.0	P Fessey	4	74	5.4

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	133	85	78	2	-162.47
P Nicholls	88	69	27	2	+11.43
Mrs M Reveley	88	64	57	16	-25.64
P Hobbs	74	66	45	9	-19.41
D Nicholson	65	62	58	2	-37.03
Miss V Williams	64	34	32	9	-11.61
N Henderson	64	46	35	2	-5.34

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	139	90	62	11	-142.42
R Johnson	112	110	105	1	-72.32
M A Fitzgerald	109	57	64	0	+22.25
N Williamson	101	65	60	7	+9.46
R Dunwoody	98	63	52	2	-50.41
J Tizzard	68	55	39	2	-34.16
A Maguire	67	50	54	3	-104.98

RACING: INJURY TO BIONIC LEAVES MOIAVA AS FAVOURITE FOR 1,000 GUINEAS

Head girl leads class of '99

By Chris McGrath

IT IS tempting to detect an admonishment for ante-post punters in a week of classic trials which begins in France on Friday with the Prix Imprudence. Moiava will go to Maisons-Laffitte to defend favouritism for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas, though the sad fact — indeed, in the case of Bint Allayl, the tragic fact — is that she would fare better than the fillies who have surrendered that status merely by getting down to the start.

Bionic, promoted to favourite after the cruel loss of Bint Allayl, has in turn been scratched from the betting after pulling up lame during exercise on Saturday morning. Henry Cecil fears that she may have sustained a minor fracture of her pelvis, rendering her idle for around a dozen weeks. This would be an unworthy blow to a trainer whose genius was already being vexed by her fragile feet.

Though rated by Kieren Fallon as gifted a juvenile filly as he has ridden, Bionic has been restricted by various problems to just one public appearance, when sprinting away with a Goodwood maiden last summer.

The Tote now hands the poisoned chalice to Moiava, who is 5-1 favourite. Criquette Head, her trainer, has a fine record in the 1,000 Guineas and was adamant, after Juvenia scrambled home in the Prix Marcel Boussac on Arc day, that she preferred the credentials of Moiava. This Bering filly made all in two races, on extremes of ground, over the Prix Imprudence course and distance last autumn.

She will be confronted in her dress rehearsal by Blue Cloud, trained by André Fabre and something of a springer in the market in recent days. Blue Cloud, a Nashwan half-sister to the top-class Bigstone, finished fast when third in the Marcel Boussac.

The Tote's 7-1 second favourite is Etizaaz, who looked an intriguing prospect as a juvenile, even before her recruitment for a winter in the desert. Godolphin has denied suggestions that she, too, is threatening to succumb to the air of doom pervading the leading ladies in the classic picture.



ED WHITAKER

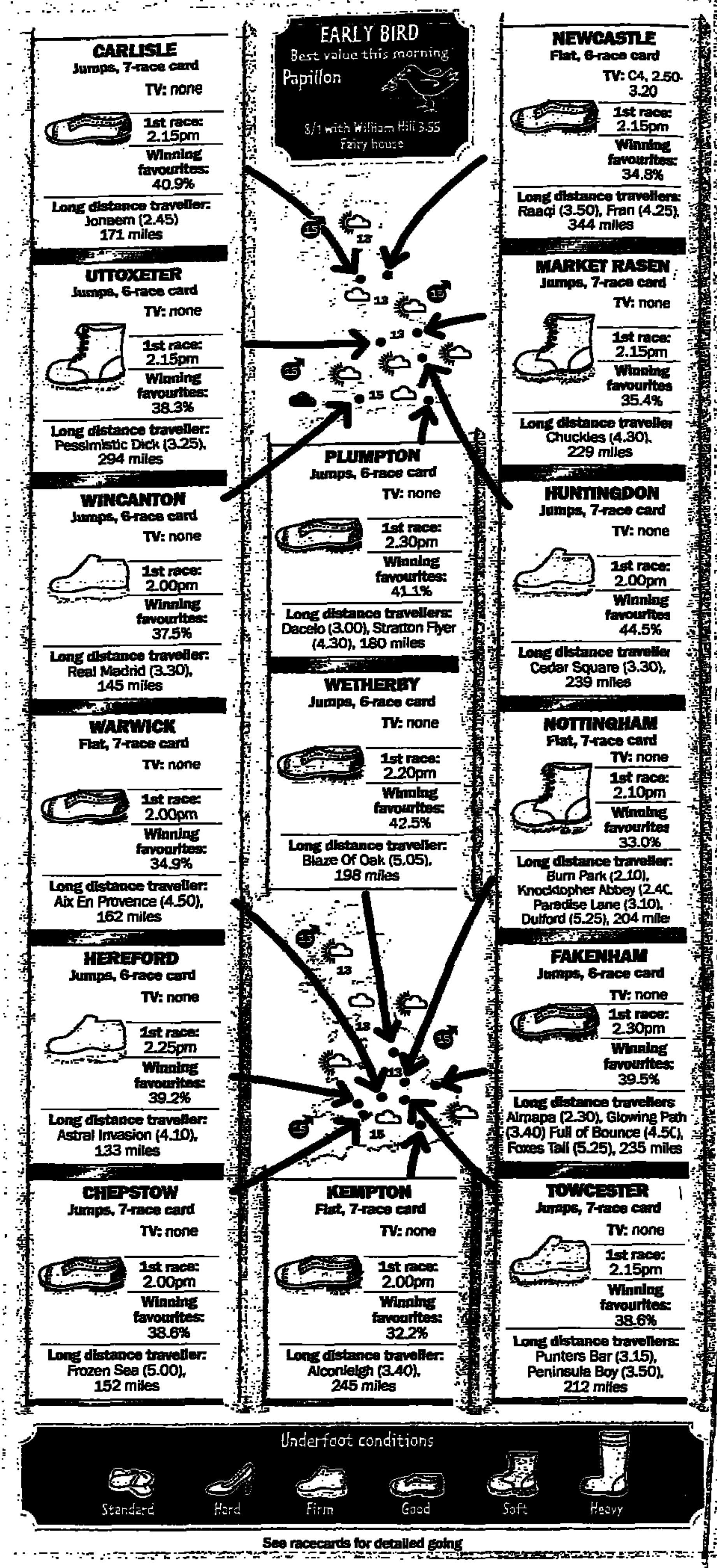
An injury to the Cecil-trained Bionic has ruled her out of the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas

No firm pecking order will be established, anyway, until its own discreet trials at Nad al Sheba this weekend. Sunspangled, game winner of the Ascot Fillies' Mile for Aidan O'Brien, is quoted next at 9-1, followed at 10-1 by Blue Cloud. It is 14-1 bar.

Epsom, rather than Newmarket, was the classic venue on John Dunlop's mind after Claxon beat her stablemate, Alabaq, in the Milcars Masaka Stakes at Kempton on Saturday. The Arundel trainer, whose horses have begun the new season in such terrific form, will step Claxon up to ten furlongs for a Vodafone Oaks trial. Mujahid, his Sagitta 2,000 Guineas favourite, heads for the City Index Craven Stakes at Newmarket next week, unless diverted to the Greenham Stakes at Newbury by fast ground.

On the same Kempton card, Glamis preserved John Gosden's Vodafone Derby ambitions by contributing to a treble for Frankie Dettori. The Italian is showing renewed purpose in trying to wrest back the championship from Fallon, though the most impressive declaration of intent has come from Richard Quinn.

Four winners at Haydock sustained his flying start as a freelance, after a long association with Paul Cole. Quinn is openly advising Fallon to look to his laurels, but his credentials, not to mention those of Dettori and even Jimmy Fortune, have not yet deceived bookmakers that there is a title race worth pricing up.



See racecards for detailed going

KEMPTON PARK

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Oriental
2.35 To The Roof
3.05 Muhtafel
3.40 PANTAR (nap)
4.10 Easter Ogil
4.45 Stormy Skye
5.20 Border Prince

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.40 SUPREME SOUND.

Our Newmarket correspondent: 2.00 ORIENTAL (nap). 2.35 Kumait. 3.40 Monsajem.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CO,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall ....9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

2.00 'FLAT SEASON MEMBERSHIP FOR £105' MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: £3,225: 7f) (13 runners)

101 (8) /0000- DESERT WARRIOR 306 (H Al-Mutawa) K Mahdi 5-9-11 ....R Price 13
102 (4) ORIENTAL (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-11 ....L Dettori —
103 (13) 0- WHITE VALLEY 323 (I Bianca) S Dow 4-9-6 ....P Doe (3) 24
104 (3) 0- EIGHT 180 (Mrs A Andrews) M Heaton-Ellis 3-8-11 ....Dane O'Neill 49
105 (1) 00- EL PICADOR 201 (M Lankaocki) B Meehan 3-8-11 ....G Hannon (7) 59
106 (9) 0- GRAND SONNET 190 (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) D Elsworth 3-8-11 N Pollard (3) 15
107 (6) 00- LEGAL SET 157 (J Kelsey-Fry) C Horgan 3-8-11 ....K Fallon 76
108 (11) 035- LUZERN 171 (S Manana) C Britain 3-8-11 ....O Peslier [illegible]
109 (7) 0- REYNOLDS 164 (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 3-8-11 ....R Hughes —
110 (5) SERDAL (H al-Maktoum) Sir M Stoute 3-8-11 ....R Hills —
111 (2) STITCH IN TIME (H Carrington) G Bravery 3-8-11 ....M Hills —
112 (12) QUITE INCREDIBLE (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-6 ....Pat Eddery —
113 (10) WAR BABY (Mrs J Laycock) Miss B Sanders 3-8-6 ....A Whelan —

BETTING: 3-1 Oriental, 9-2 Luzern, 6-1 Quite Incredible, 7-1 Grand Sonnet, Serdal, 8-1 Reynolds, 12-1 others.

1998: QUEEN OF SCOTLAND 3-8-6 Candy Morris (10-1) M Channon 12 ran

A trappy opener with few racecourse clues to act on. Luzern, a notable booking for crack French rider Olivier Peslier, boasts the best form and should find a race judged on his three efforts in maidens last year, the pick being a length third to Undeterred and Intimaa at Yarmouth (6f) in August. Eight (10th of 15 in the York maiden (6f) won by Slumbering), Grand Sonnet (highly tried on his debut behind Mukaddamah at Ascot (7f)), and Legal Set (showed promise his two starts in Newmarket maidens) are also clearly not without ability, but this may well go to one of the five newcomers. Of the quintet, the John Gosden-trained ORIENTAL makes most appeal. An Inchinor half-brother to three winners, including the useful miler Yeast, he respresents a stable that clicked into gear on Saturday with the Kempton strikes of Glamis and Tactful Remark. Serdal, by Gulch but already gelded, and Ed Dunlop's Quite Incredible are ones to watch in the betting.

2.35 QUAIL CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,671: 6f) (9) C4

201 (4) 0316-0 ASTRAC 17 (D,F,S) (T Beecroft) D Nicholls 8-9-7 ....Alex Greaves 102
202 (1) 03144- KUMAIT 181 (D,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 5-9-7 ....R Hills 118
203 (2) 5030-3 ALWAYS ALIGHT 9 (D,F,S) (M Nelmes-Crocker) K Burke 5-9-5 ....K Fallon 104
204 (3) 80-145 BOLD EFFORT 23 (B,CD,F,S) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 7-9-2 .R Cochrane [illegible]
205 (6) 06304- BRAVE EDGE 164 (C,D,F,G) (Harris Vale Racing) R Hannon 8-9-2 ..Pat Eddery 118
206 (8) 10/00- COASTAL BLUFF 290 (T,D,F,G,S) (P Dixon) N Littmoden 7-9-2 .T G McLaughlin 101
207 (9) 10060- HILL MAGIC 261 (D,F) (M Jackson Bloodstock) D Elsworth 4-9-2 .N Pollard (3) 109
208 (7) 5210-6 TO THE ROOF 11 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 7-9-2 ....L Dettori 122
209 (5) 54030- JENNELLE 208 (F,S) (Mrs J Cornwell) C Dwyer 5-8-11 ....J Fortune 102

BETTING: 3-1 Brave Edge, 4-1 To The Roof, 6-1 Kumait, 7-1 Always Alight, Coastal Bluff, 8-1 Astrac, 10-1 others

1998: ANDREYEV 4-9-9 R Hughes (10-3) R Hannon 6 ran

A race restricted to horses who have not won a Pattern race after 1997, the year in which Coastal Bluff capped his rise through the ranks when he dead-heated for the Group 1 Nunthorpe Stakes at York. He has since suffered physical problems and, sold out of David Barron's stable for 17,000gns last October, is probably best watched on his debut for Nick Littmoden. TO THE ROOF looks a more reliable proposition. A consistent sort in handicaps, he is not far shy of Group standard and showed his present wellbeing when finishing under two lengths sixth of 17 to Night Shot off a mark of 105 at Doncaster 11 days ago. Brave Edge can be watched on this occasion with Richard Hannon's horses yet to spark, and Kumait appears more of a threat. His trainer, Ed Dunlop, got off the mark for the season on Saturday and this son of Danzig had the selection (now 5lb better) 1¼ lengths back in second when winning at Yarmouth (6f) in September.

3.05 MAGNOLIA STAKES (LISTED) (£13,680: 1m 2f) (8) C4

301 (4) 23130- DOWER HOUSE 268 (D,F,G) (Lord H De Walden) W Jarvis 4-8-11 ....J Reid 116
302 (3) 61- DYNAMISM 313 (D,G) (M & C Griffiths) Mrs L Stubbs 4-8-11 ....L Dettori 67
303 (2) 0200-5 FOR VALOUR 9 (D,G,S) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 6-8-11 O Peslier 112
304 (7) 12222- GENEROUS ROSI 156 (BF,D,F) (W Said) J Dunlop 4-8-11 ....K Fallon [illegible]
305 (5) 213d1- MUHTAFEL 205 (D,F,G) (R Ellis) J Jenkins 5-8-11 ....J Fortune 109
306 (6) /0035- ROYAL AMARETTO 261 (T,D,F,G) (Harlequin P'ship) B Meehan 5-8-11 .Pat Eddery 121
307 (1) 104/5- SHAYA 234 (D,G) (M Whatley) G Bravery 5-8-11 ....M Hills 89
308 (8) 62-560 DIAMOND WHITE 16 (D,F,S) (P Scott) M Ryan 4-8-6 ....R Price 122

BETTING: 7-4 Generous Rosi, 4-1 Muhtafel, 9-2 Dower House, Royal Amaretto, 14-1 others.

1998: GARUDA 4-8-11 Pat Eddery (3-1 jt fav) J Dunlop 6 ran

Early skirmishes this new season suggest John Dunlop and Brian Meehan have their horses well forward and in fine fettle and the two look to saddle the chief protagonists here in GENEROUS ROSI and Royal Amaretto, with preference being for the former. The winner of a Newmarket maiden last July, the four-year-old had the misfortune of finding one too good on each of his other seven starts last year, most recently at Headquarters when going down by a length to his full brother Generous Libra. Royal Amaretto, a winner on his reappearance in 1997, failed to add to his tally in four starts last season, but showed that he retains plenty of ability when third, beaten two lengths by Happy Valentine, in the Listed Gala Stakes over course and distance in July. Muhtafel, controversially disqualified after passing the post first in a 20-runner Doncaster handicap (1m2f) in September, is a likeable sort but has more on now in this company. Dower House, absent since disappointing last July, would not be far away if back to the form that saw him win an Epsom handicap off a mark of 95 last June.

RAPID RACELINE

09066 168+	COMMENTARY	RESULTS	09066 168+	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
KEMPTON	101	201	FAKENHAM	209	209
NEWCASTLE	102	202	HEREFORD	210	210
WARWICK	103	203	HUNTINGDON	211	211
NOTTINGHAM	104	204	PLUMPTON	212	212
WETHERBY	105	205	TOWCESTER	213	213
CHEPSTOW	106	206	UTTOXETER	214	214
MKT RASEN	107	207	WINCANTON	215	215
CARLISLE	108	208	IRISH	120	220
FULL RESULTS FOR ABOVE	168		FULL RESULTS FOR ABOVE	568	

3.40 CORAL ROSEBERY HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£21,885: 1m 2f) (20) C4

401 (19) 1300-1 SUPREME SOUND 16 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 5-10-0 ....G Bardwell [illegible]
402 (20) 11202- ROKEBY BOWL 172 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Mellon) I Balding 7-10-0 .A Nicholls (5) 97
403 (14) 30503- PANTAR 184 (G) (R Hitchins) I Balding 4-9-12 ....K Fallon 102
404 (5) 34611- MONSAJEM 159 (D,S) (K Sultan) E Dunlop 4-9-9 ....J Reid 104
405 (4) /3062- CARRY THE FLAG 274 (F,G) (L Gaucci) P Cole 4-9-6 ....J Fortune 98
406 (12) 12000- EMERALD HEIGHTS 214 (G) (P & N Hodgson) J Fanshawe 4-9-5 .R Cochrane 103
407 (11) 40331- NAUTICAL STAR 217 (D,F,S) (M Wauchope) J Hills 4-9-5 ....M Hills 106
408 (10) 25500- TAVERNER SOCIETY 176 (C,F) (M Saunders) M Saunders 4-9-4 ....R Price 105
409 (17) 2/040- ALCONLEIGH 193 (G,S) (J Abell) M Johnston 4-9-3 ....M Roberts 100
410 (16) /1513- SOMAYDA 162 (BF,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-9-1 ....R Hills 113
411 (3) 16536- INFATUATION 162 (D,F,G) (Lady Katharine Phillips) Lady Herries 6-9-0 .P Doe (3) 107
412 (6) 10000- RIVER BEAT 39J (D,F,G,S) (High Havens Stables) K Burke 4-8-11 .D Williams (7) 113
413 (15) 43/10- MUDALAL 291 (D,F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 4-8-11 ....L Dettori 88
414 (1) 12040- PRAETORIAN GOLD 175 (D,G,S) (Gold Buster (2)) R Hannon 4-8-8 .R Hughes 114
415 (13) 3002-0 FURTHER OUTLOOK 9 (F,G) (M Leatham) D Nicholls 5-8-6 ....Pat Eddery 109
416 (7) 061534 WHITE PLAINS 16 (T,D,F,S) (N Shields) K Burke 6-8-5 ....D Sweeney 113
417 (8) 0-1315 PAS DE MEMOIRES 16 (D) (N Shields) K Burke 4-8-5 ....N Callan (5) 111
418 (9) 24000- CAPTAIN'S LOG 164 (G,S) (C Wright) M Bell 4-8-4 ....R Mullen (3) 115
419 (2) 5-4440 GRALMANO 16 (B) (Coleorton Moor Racing) N Littmoden 4-8-4 ....J Tate 111
420 (18) 1500-6 KING DARIUS 9 (C,F,S) (E Perry) R Hannon 4-8-3 ....Dane O'Neill 102

BETTING: 7-1 Supreme Sound, 8-1 Monsajem, Somayda, 10-1 Pantar, Carry The Flag, Mudalal, 12-1 Rokeby Bowl, Nautical Star, Alconleigh, Further Outlook, 14-1 others.

1998: AMERICAN WHISPER 4-8-9 C Lowther (12-1) P Harris 16 ran

Rokeby Bowl, 2lb higher than when signing off with a neck second to Rainbow Ways at Newmarket (1m 4f) last October, and Cambridgeshire third Pantar give Ian Balding a strong hand, but this may fall to John Dunlop and SOMAYDA (nap). A winner first time out last year, sesamoid problems restricted him to just three further starts, including a two-length beating of Lonesome Dude at Goodwood (1m 1f) in September. He remains open to improvement and is fairly weighted here on a 6lb higher mark. Further Outlook, placed twice for Amanda Perrett last year, gave a bold showing in finishing 11th of 24 in the Lincoln (1m) on his debut for David Nicholls but may be better at that shorter trip, while Lingfield Winter Derby victor Supreme Sound will do well to defy topweight (mark of 102) on this switch back to turf. Emerald Heights, gelded and freshened up after losing his way last year, and the lightly-raced and unexposed Mudalal (Frankie Dettori booked) are interesting contenders, while Monsajem ended last year in terrific form (completed double when trotting up in a 0-85 rated stakes) and cannot be ruled out off today's mark (97).

4.10 TRAVELLING THE TURF 'RACECOURSE OF THE YEAR' HANDICAP (£4,572: 6f) (23) C4

501 (20) 0020-0 TWICE AS SHARP 10 (D,F,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 7-10-0 ....L Dettori 83
502 (16) 41600- DEEP SPACE 191 (D,F,G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-9-13 ....Pat Eddery 99
503 (9) 41010- FAMILY MAN 170 (BF,F,G,S) (Family Man P'ship) J Fanshawe 6-9-10 R Cochrane 91
504 (21) 2310-0 EASTER OGIL 10 (V,BF,S) (G Smart) I Balding 4-9-10 ....K Fallon 88
505 (6) 42200- TAOISTE 254 (G) (E Toops) M Saunders 6-9-9 ....R Hughes 76
506 (12) 0000-0 DOUBLE OSCAR 10 (D,F,G,S) (Tidby Racing) D Nicholls 6-9-9 Alex Greaves 88
507 (23) /8060- PASSION FOR LIFE 281 (CD,F,G) (Carisbay Bloodstock) J Akehurst 6-9-8 .O Peslier 84
508 (17) 12000- DELTA SOLEIL 285 (D,F,G) (American Quartet) V Soane 7-9-5 ..N Callan (5) 85
509 (19) 001-40 RIFIFI 79 (D,F,G) (G Williams) R Ingram 6-9-5 ....M Roberts 87
510 (3) /4450- BEDEVILLED 315 (D Cantillon) M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-4 ....J Reid 83
511 (10) 03235- MADMUN 202 (H al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 5-9-4 ....R Hills 88
512 (5) 034-34 VASARI 10 (G) (L Bennett) W Musson 5-9-2 ....R Price 95
513 (4) 00000- BLUNDELL LANE 210 (D,F,G) (N Coverdale) A Jarvis 4-9-1 ....D Sweeney 96
514 (22) 11110- ALPEN WOLF 170 (D,F) (R Harn) W Muir 4-9-1 ....Martin Dwyer 93
515 (8) 4d100- CONTRARY MARY 151 (BF,F) (Fisher Foods) J Akehurst 4-9-1 ....M Hills 92
516 (18) 02540- IVORY DAWN 196 (D,F,G) (D Ivory) K Ivory 5-9-0 ....N Pollard (3) 100
517 (2) 500-00 KING OF PERU 11 (D,F,G,S) (M C S D Racing) N Littmoden 6-9-0 .T G McLaughlin 97
518 (15) 40061- COMPRADORE 167 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Watkins) M Blanshard 4-8-12 Dale Gibson 96
519 (13) 4685-0 JUWWI 23 (D,F) (J Bradley) J Bradley 5-8-11 ....J Fortune 99
520 (1) 32360- CARLTON 41J (B,D,F,S) (City Slickers) G Lewis 5-8-7 ....P Doe (3) 96
521 (11) 00000- GOLDEN POUND 151 (D,F,G) (A Griffin) Mrs L Stubbs 7-8-5 ....S Whitworth [illegible]
522 (7) /6545- BUZZING 290 (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 4-8-5 ....Dane O'Neill 79
523 (14) 05000- PURPLE FLING 181 (D,F,G,S) (A McNae) A McNae 8-8-0 ....R Mullen (3) 90

BETTING: 6-1 Easter Ogil, 7-1 Twice As Sharp, Passion For Life, 8-1 Deep Space, 10-1 Double Oscar, Alpen Wolf, 12-1 Family Man, Rififi, 14-1 others.

1998: MARSAD 4-9-3 T Quinn (12-1) J Akehurst 24 ran

A middle to high draw looks essential here, especially as Passion For Life (drawn 23), Alpen Wolf (22), Twice As Sharp (20) and Delta Soleil (17) invariably like to bowl along in front or help force the pace. A strong-run 6f is ideal for RIFIFI, who likes to pounce from off the pace, and he is drawn to take advantage. He held his form well last season and ran right up to his best when seventh to Silca Blanca at Lingfield (7f) on his latest appearance. Deep Space is feared most. He remains relatively unexposed and is only 5lb higher than when winning with something to spare at Newmarket (6f) in August. Easter Ogil never landed a blow on his return at Doncaster and would prefer a stiffer test over this trip, while Alpen Wolf (in great heart in the second half of last term) and Ivory Dawn (tough and consistent) and Compradore (inconsistent) look handicapped up to their best. Family Man has a smart turn of foot but drops in distance. Juwwi looks the pick of the remainder.

4.45 'BE AN ANNUAL MEMBER FOR £8 PER DAY' MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,664: 1m 3f 30yd) (13)

601 (3) 2533-3 CHALLENGES 10 (B) (J Gotlan) B Meehan 9-0 ....Pat Eddery 70
602 (13) COOGAN (L Gaucci) P Cole 9-0 ....J Fortune —
603 (10) 3- DIRECT DEAL 174 (T) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0 ....K Fallon 70
604 (7) 23- KONDOTY 207 (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Channon 9-0 ....J Reid [illegible]
605 (2) MALIAN (M Glass) A Jarvis 9-0 ....D Sweeney —
606 (1) 00- ORIENTAL PRIDE 150 (H R H Sultan Ahmad Shah) E Dunlop 9-0 ..S Whitworth 36
607 (5) 05- RED DECEMBER 187 (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 9-0 ....S Clancy (7) 21
608 (6) 5035- STORMY SKYE 163 (Iona Stud) A McNae 9-0 ....M Roberts 81
609 (11) 60- THAMES DANCER 188 (J Dunningham) K McAuliffe 9-0 ....Dane O'Neill 68
610 (8) 45- THROUGH THE RYE 157 (W Gredley) B Hills 9-0 ....M Hills 70
611 (12) 6- DRAMATIC SCENES 180 (P Hanley) J S Moore 8-9 ....P P Murphy (3) 29
612 (4) FRIPPET (Clear Height Epsom) S Dow 8-9 ....O Peslier —
613 (9) JOLI SADDLERS (Joli Racing) M Haynes 8-9 ....L Dettori —

BETTING: 5-2 Through The Rye, 7-2 Direct Deal, 6-1 Kondoty, 7-1 Coogan, Challenges, 8-1 others.

1998: RAFFAELLO 9-0 R Hughes (15-8 fav) M Channon 6 ran

KONDOTY ran respectably when placed in maidens last term and is likely to relish this step up in distance. Mick Channon's charge just failed to peg back Juno Marlowe on his debut at Kempton (7f) last August (unlucky loser having been hampered at halfway) and was again doing all his best work at the finish when third to Beat All at Chepstow (7f) the following month. Direct Deal finished under two lengths third to Senure on his debut at Leicester (7f) in October and, with Kieren Fallon in the saddle, is bound to prove a popular choice. Through The Rye showed enough — at Ascot and Newmarket respectively — to suggest he will be winning races this term, although he looks a less likelier stayer than the selection. Stormy Skye looked short of speed last season, while Challenges, a well-beaten third to Turaath at Doncaster (1m 2f) clearly has his limitations. Coogan, a Caerleon colt who is a half-brother to group three winner Grand Plaisir, looks the most interesting of the newcomers.

5.20 'FLAT SEASON MEMBERSHIP FOR £105' MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: £3,209: 7f) (12)

1 (4) 0/ GOLD MILLENIUM 691 (Mrs L Horgan) C Horgan 5-9-11 ....R Hughes —
2 (2) REACHFORYOURPOCKET (B Fry & A Hall) K Mahdi 4-9-11 ....R Price —
3 (3) 06- BORDER PRINCE 172 (R Mickelson & D Allport) I Balding 3-8-11 ..Martin Dwyer 63
4 (10) DANE FRIENDLY (L Gaucci) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-11 ....J Fortune —
5 (12) 0- END OF STORY 174 (High Seas Ltd) R Hannon 3-8-11 ....Dane O'Neill 66
6 (5) NEPTUNE (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) G Lewis 3-8-11 ....J Reid —
7 (1) 04- RAJWHAN 200 (M Jaber) C Buttala 3-8-11 ....O Peslier [illegible]
8 (8) 002- RED APOLLO 140 (S Hammond) A Stewart 3-8-11 ....T G McLaughlin 67
9 (7) 00- SURPRISE ENCOUNTER 188 (A Ali) E Dunlop 3-8-11 ....K Fallon 70
10 (9) TROUBLE (S Cohn) B Hills 3-8-11 ....M Hills —
11 (11) 00- ECLECTIC 195 (Harold Ness) S Dow 3-8-6 ....P Doe (3) 17
12 (6) 02024- KNOCKEMBACK NELLIE 189 (Notaproperjob P'ship) D Elsworth 3-8-6 N Pollard (3) 72

BETTING: 3-1 Dane Friendly, 5-1 Border Prince, 6-1 Surprise Encounter, 7-1 Reachforyourpocket, 8-1 others.

1998: QUEEN OF SCOTLAND 3-8-6 Candy Morris (10-1) M Channon 12 ran

Dane Friendly, a Danehill colt out of a group three winner at 12f, and Reachforyourpocket, a son of Royal Academy who is a full brother to winning miler Dance Academy, are among the newcomers to note in the market, but it might pay to side with experience and SURPRISE ENCOUNTER. He belied odds of 100-1 when a creditable tenth, of 26, to Maidaan at Newmarket in September — finishing just a neck behind Dehoush (winner of a listed prize here on Saturday).

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
N Littmoden	3	14	21.4	N Pollard	6	21	28.6
P Chapple-Hyam	6	29	20.7	L Dettori	19	80	23.8
K McAuliffe	4	20	20.0	K Fallon	9	48	18.8
Sir M Stoute	16	82	19.5	J Reid	28	147	19.0
J Bradley	3	16	18.8	Pat Eddery	32	171	18.7
J Fanshawe	9	57	15.8	R Hughes	17	94	18.1

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Haydock Park

Going: soft (good to soft in places)

1.30 1, Samraan (8-13 fav); 2, Raise A Prince (5-2); 3, Mardani (8-1) 4 ran. NR: Travelling Clock.

2.00 1, Coulthard (7-1); 2, Elhayq (5-2 fav); 3, Cugina (14-1). 9 ran.

2.30 1, Inya Lake (5-1); 2, Henry Hall (11-1); 3, Damalis (5-1). Perugino Bay 2-1 fav. 7 ran.

3.00 1, Pipadash (5-1); 2, Tara's Girl (20-1), 3, Heathyards Lad (12-1). Nifty Major 7-2 fav. 11 ran.

3.30 1, Nowhere To Exit (4-1 jt-fav); 2, Moutahddee (4-1 jt-fav); 3, Little Pippin (20-1). 9 ran.

4.00 1, Now Look Here (3-1); 2, Compatriot (3-1); 3, Ilissus (5-2 fav). 7 ran.

Kempton Park

Going: good (good to firm in places)

2.05 1, Ma Yoram (5-6 fav); 2, Coco de Mer (10-1); 3, Saafend Boy (12-1). 10 ran.

2.40 1, Glamis (11-10 fav; Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Peace Of Mind (100-30). 3. J R Stevenson (5-1). 5 ran.

3.10 1, Candleriggs (6-1); 2, Ranaan (7-1), 3, Alastair Smellie (10-1). Kuwait Thunder 11-4 fav. 14 ran.

3.40 1, Claxon (9-2); 2, Alabaq (9-2); 3, Alexis (9-2). Miss Universe 4-1 fav. 8 ran.

4.10 1, Dehoush (10-1); 2, Wallace (10-1); 3, Compton Arrow (8-1). Raise A Grand, Tumbleweed Quartet 9-2 jt-favs. 11 ran.

4.45 1, Far Cry (7-1); 2, Praire Falcon (16-1); 3, Bridle's Pride (10-1). Spunkie 11-4 fav. 12 ran.

5.20 1, Tactful Remark (11-4 fav); 2, Deploy Venture (15-2); 3, Lucky Gitano (11-1). 13 ran. NR: Route Sixty Six.

Carlisle

Going: good to soft

2.15 1, Radiation (11-2); 2, Fanfaron (4-1); 3, Ballyvaughan (12-1). Birkdale 4-6 fav. 11 ran.

2.45 1, Martha's Moonstone (33-1); 2, Symonds Inn (6-4); 3, Karisma (33-1). Patras (f) 5-4 fav. 16 ran.

3.20 1, Ardrina (14-1); 2, Pink Gin (20-1); 3, Flat Top (7-2 fav). 9 ran.

3.50 1, Jessolle (15-2); 2, Apollo's Daughter (33-1); 3, My Shenandoah (11-2). The Next Waltz 4-1 fav. 11 ran.

4.20 1, Stan's Your Man (9-2 fav); 2, Pentlands Flyer (9-1); 3, Shanavogh (5-1). 14 ran. NR: Craigary.

4.55 1, Swiftway (4-1); 2, Northern Union (11-1); 3, Tipping Tina (14-1); 4, Mascoom (12-1). Dante's Glen 3-1 fav. 18 ran.

Newton Abbot

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

2.05 1, Anns Girl (5-2 fav); 2, Hillside Rose (8-1); 3, Belle D'orsini (3-1). 13 ran. NR: Garota De Ipanema, Rise Above, Sea Fig.

2.35 1, Miss Bertaine (33-1); 2, Sandoran (20-1); 3, Damp Course (2-1 fav); 4, Longstone Lad (6-1). 16 ran.

3.05 1, Grosvenor (7-2); 2, Miss Diskin (12-1); 3, Well Timed (16-1). Atavistic 2-1 fav. 9 ran. NR: Moorland Highflyer.

3.35 1, Castle Secret (16-1), 2, Sweet Glow (4-7 fav); 3, The Minder (12-1). 15 ran. NR: Tylo Steamer

4.05 1, Hold Your Ranks (4-1), 2, Gallant Taffy (6-1); 3, Persian Tactics (40-1). Minella Derby 7-4 fav 12 ran. NR: Dacelo, Manamour, Mister Oddy, Shadirwan.

4.35 1, Mr Perfecta (5-4 fav), 2, Mystik Day (4-1), 3, Falcon Ridge (100-30). 5 ran. NR: Nine O Three, Optimistic Thinker, Pharly Reel, Thunderpoint, Wayfarers Way.

5.10 1, Stand Easy (25-1); 2, Admiral Rose (5-1); 3, Ossocool (5-1). Julie's Leader 2-1 fav 12 ran. NR: Frosty Belle, Grandpa Maurice, Happicat, Silver Pot Black.

5.40 1, Tom Cobbler (7-2), 2, Festival Leader (12-1), 3, It's All Good Fun (100-30 fav). 14 ran. NR: Exotic Profiles, Native Trump.

Plumpton

Going: good to soft (good in places)

2.10 1, Golden Fawn (7-2); 2, Green Jacket (25-1), 3, Memory's Music (10-1). Dusham 5-2 fav 14 ran. NR: Inclination

2.45 1, Jazzman (3-1), 2, Chicodari (4-1), 3, Black Spring (50-1). Nordic Breeze 5-4 fav 7 ran

3.15 1, Father Krismas (5-6 fav), 2, Saddlers' Roe (5-2); 3, Lightning Star (16-1) 13 ran

3.45 1, Reach The Clouds (4-1), 2, Namoodaj (8-1); 3, Kelly Mac (9-2). Coolteen Hero 7-2 fav 10 ran.

4.15 1, Arturo (5-1); 2, Danzante (14-1), 3, Melling (5-1). Total Joy 9-4 fav. 11 ran

4.50 1, Nouveau Cheval (9-4 jt-fav), 2, Johnston's Art (7-1), 3, Irish Option (20-1) Dirty Dozen 9-4 jt-fav. 14 ran

Towcester

Going: good to firm

2.20 1, Look Sharper (100-30), 2, Sir Lunchalot (12-1); 3, Give Me Space (12-1) Tricky Trevor 11-4 fav 10 ran.

2.55 1, Dazzo (9-4 jt-fav), 2, Mr Snaggle (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Black Statement (12-1). 5 ran. NR: Spanish Light.

3.25 1, Tea Cee Kay (9-1), 2, Linlathen (4-6 fav), 3, Master Crusader (25-1) 5 ran

3.55 1, Mazileo (3-1 jt-fav); 2, Dark Romance (11-2), 3, Shekels (9-1). Homme De Fer 3-1 jt-fav 6 ran

4.25 1, Carley Lad (8-1); 2, Liver Bird (6-1); 3, Capenwray (6-1). Salmon Breeze 15-8 fav. 10 ran

5.00 1, The Good Knight (12-1), 2, Stay Lucky (11-1), 3, Justice Alone (16-1) Bali Strong 9-4 fav 11 ran NR: Caldamus.

5.30 1, Blue Royal (4-11 fav), 2, Purple Ace (12-1); 3, Melton Made (20-1) 10 ran

[illegible]

ROB WRIGHT

2.30 Albemine
3.05 Verde Luna
3.40 Kingsdown Trix
4.15 Ballyallia Castle
4.50 Grange Court
5.25 Inner Light

Carl Evans: 3.05 Verde Luna. 4.15 Cracking Idea.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

2.30 GRAHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,812: 2m) (13 runners)

1 F005 ALBEMINE 12 (B,D,F,G) A Juckes 10-12-0 ....Mark Smith (7)
2 4483 ALMAPA 19 (D,F) R Hodges 7-11-13 ....P Holley
3 -00P MARCHANT MING 34 (B,D,G,S) H Alexander 7-11-12 ..N Bentley
4 PPU0 KOATHARY 111 (B) A H Harvey 8-11-4 ....C Honour (7)
5 -255 LUCY TUFTY 17 (V,F,G) G Prodromou 8-11-2 ....D Byrne
6 4436 HELENES HILL 94 J L Harris 4-11-1 ....R Hobson (7)
7 0-00 LITTLE NOD 45 (CD,F) J R Best 10-10-10 ....J J Best (7)
8 040 JACK REEF 12 (T) D McCain 4-10-7 ....A C Coyle (5)
9 P0P0 FRECKLES 16 M Ryan 4-10-3 ....J Ryan
10 0056 EMERALD VENTURE 31 (D,F) F Coton 12-10-3 ..D Creech (7)
11 P-6P COASTGUARDS HERO 39F B Pearce 6-10-3 ....J Leech
12 P0P- CULRAIN 357 (F) J Whyte 8-10-0 ....S Curran
13 U00P LIGHTNING REBEL 12 P Hiatt 5-10-0 ....Mr J Owen (7)

7-2 Lucy Tufty, 9-2 Almapa, 5-1 Albemine, 11-2 Helenes Hill, 8-1 others.

3.05 HVA HUNTERS CHASE (£2,004: 2m 5½f) (8)

1 1201 VERDE LUNA 13 (B,F,G) R J Smith 7-12-10 ..Mr S Joynes (5)
2 5-42 PRIVATE JET 14 (T,F) I A Brown 10-12-5 ..Mr P McAllister (7)
3 PR-P BITTER ALOE 57P (V,G) Mrs J Read 10-12-0 ..Mr D Cook (7)
4 03-2 CHESTER BEN 17 (G) Mrs P Barthorpe 10-12-0 .Mr T Lane (7)
5 -P45 DEVIL'S STING 8P R Harper 10-12-0 ....Mr J Owen (7)
6 P/F- EDEN'S CLOSE 443P (F,G) G Piendersleith 10-12-0 .Mr N King (7)
7 -U5U EUROLINK SHADOW 9 (T) D McCain 7-12-0 .Mr D Dickenson (7)
8 F/P1 NO QUITTING 16P (G) M A Kemp 9-12-0 ....Mr W Wales

11-8 Private Jet, 4-1 Verde Luna, Chester Ben, 5-1 No Quitting, 25-1 others.

3.40 EVENT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,310: 2m 4f) (7)

1 2-P0 EL DON 45 (D,F,G) M Ryan 7-12-0 ....J Ryan
2 5451 KINGSDOWN TRIX 13 (F,S) R J Smith 5-11-3 Mr S Joynes (7)
3 0030 CHABROL 55F (D,F,S) P Gilligan 6-11-2 ....D Byrne
4 0060 GLOWING PATH 13 (F,G,S) R Hodges 9-10-8 ....P Holley
5 3P56 TANGSHAN 34 Mrs D Haine 5-10-0 ....Mark Smith (7)
6 0805 CAMBO 80 (D,F,G,S) M Banks 13-10-0 ....R Hobson (7)
7 65P6 FLORA DREAMBIRD 12 P Hiatt 5-10-0 ....Mr J Owen (7)

7-4 Kingsdown Trix, 9-2 Chabrol, 5-1 Glowing Path, 6-1 El Don, 8-1 others.

4.15 QUEEN'S CUP, AN EASTERN COUNTIES HUNTERS CHASE (£2,123: 3m 110yd) (5)

1 -FP1 JO JO BOY 9P (CD,F,G,S) M Bloom 10-12-4 ....Mr W Wales
2 345- CHERRY CHAP 323 (D,F,G) J Abbott 14-11-12 .Mr D Parravani (7)
3 11U1 CRACKING IDEA 9P (G) 11-11-12 ....Mr P McAllister (7)
4 2321 ZAM BEE 8P (D,F,G,S) Mrs A Bell 13-11-12 ....Mr N M Bell (7)
5 -141 BALLYALLIA CASTLE 9P (D,G) Mrs Read 10-11-8 .Mr T Lane (7)

7-4 Jo Jo Boy, 3-1 Cracking Idea, Zam Bee, Ballyallia Castle, 12-1 Cherry Chap.

4.50 DAVID KEITH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£5,270: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

1 2F34 GRANGE COURT 39 (F,G,S) I Williams 9-11-11 ....D Byrne
2 0405 WISE ADVICE 37 (F) M Hammond 9-11-4 ....N Bentley
3 2FP5 DENICHEUR 17 (G) Mrs L Taylor 8-10-12 ....Mr J Owen (7)
4 333P DANDIE IMP 212 (C,D,F,G,S) A Carroll 11-10-11 ....J Ryan
5 143F HEAD FOR HEAVEN 2 (S) R Head 9-10-8 ....J Ryan
6 F61F FULL OF BOUNCE 11 (D,S) R Hodges 9-10-8 ....P Holley
7 0PF2 EPSILO DE LA RONCE 17 (G) A H Harvey 7-10-5 ...A C Coyle (5)
8 -2FR MR PIPE MAN 74 (S) R Curtis 10-10-3 ....J Leech
9 2442 PEARL'S CHOICE 16 (S) J McConnochie 11-10-0 ....S Curran
10 4PP0 HIGHLAND FLAME 16 (S) A Blackmore 10-10-0 ....M Sharratt

7-2 Head For Heaven, 4-1 Full Of Bounce, 11-2 Grange Court, 6-1 others.

5.25 BETTY AND HERBERT CASSELL MEMORIAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,676: 2m) (11)

1 34-2 SUPREMISM 217 Mrs D Haine 5-11-10 ....D Byrne
2 230 FOXES TAIL 39 R Hodges 5-11-9 ....P Holley
3 1355 LIMIT THE DAMAGE 45 (D,S) J Whyte 7-11-6 ....S Curran
4 3232 POLO VENTURE 28 M Hammond 4-11-5 ....N Bentley
5 2514 REGGIE BUCK 11F (D,S) J L Harris 5-11-4 ....A C Coyle (5)
6 3005 SECOND HELPING 13 J R Best 5-11-3 ....J J Best (7)
7 P560 INNER LIGHT 18 B Pearce 4-11-0 ....Leesa Long
8 30P0 DUNABRATTIN 100 (V) D Thom 6-10-9 ....J Ryan
9 5046 BONNET 32 R Curtis 5-10-7 ....J Leech
10 0P0 JAMORIN DANCER 45 M Banks 4-10-6 ....R Hobson (7)
11 5UP0 I'M IMRAN 66 (B) C Egerton 8-10-3 ....Mr J Owen (7)

9-2 Supremism, Reggie Buck, 5-1 Polo Venture, 11-2 Foxes Tail, 8-1 others.

[illegible]

ROB WRIGHT

2.30 Harik
3.00 Irish Frolic
3.30 Amaze
4.00 Baroncelli
4.30 Mullintor
5.00 Laffah

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

2.30 CHURCH FARM HURDLE (£2,478: 2m [illegible]) (13)

1 50 FALLAH 137 Lady Herries 5-11-0 ....W Greatrex (7)
2 -0P0 FINDON FLYER 13 J Gifford 5-11-0 ....[illegible] (7)
3 5 GHADAMES 38 I Williams 5-11-0 ....DOUBTFUL
4 F363 HARIK 9 G L Moore 5-11-0 ....P Hide
5 13-3 NATIVE SPEAKER 140 (BF,S) P R Webber 6-11-0 ..L Aspell
6 ROYAL CHARMER Mrs M Jones 7-11-0 ....M Ahern
7 0-P SLEIPNIR 47 D Grissell 6-11-0 ....T Peoples (7)
8 00U0 BINT SHRUHOON 28 T McGovern 5-10-9 ....C Murray (7)
9 2550 CERTAIN SURPRISE 62 M Madgwick 5-10-9 ....[illegible] Eddery (7)
10 3526 CHIPPEWA 49 (T,BF) M Pipe 5-10-9 ....R Greene
11 FOLLOW THE STORM M Bradstock 5-10-9 ....[illegible] Bates (3)
12 PYREXE 205F Mrs L Wadham 5-10-9 ....S Fox
13 35 SOVIET LADY 16 R Ingram 5-10-9 ....M Batchelor (5)

11-4 Harik, 3-1 Chippewa, 4-1 Native Speaker, 7-1 Soviet Lady, 8-1 others.

3.00 BLACKMORE BORLEY CHASE (£2,559: 2m 2f) (10)

1 1-06 DACELO 19 (F) H Howe 8-11-7 ....[illegible] Eddery (7)
2 0004 I DO THE JOKES 12 J Gifford 9-11-7 ....P Hide
3 6652 IRISH FROLIC 13 (BF,G,S) R Rowe 7-11-7 ....L Aspell
4 F/PP LOYAL GAIT 62 (F) A J Wilson 11-11-7 ....S Fox
5 4324 MACHALINI 30 T George 6-11-7 ....M Batchelor (5)
6 52PP MERRY SHOT 48 (B,G) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-7 ....R Greene
7 U5P3 NICE APPROACH 68 R Hodges 6-11-7 ....[illegible] Bates (3)
8 6U02 SMART GUY 28 Mrs L Jewell 7-11-7 ....T Peoples (7)
9 3R80 WELSH HARVEST 13 (B) D Williams 7-11-7 ....—
10 0-PP LUCRATIVE PERK 16 Miss C Caroe 7-11-2 ....W Greatrex (7)

2-1 Machalini, 3-1 Irish Frolic, 5-1 Merry Shot, 7-1 Nice Approach, [illegible]-1 others.

3.30 RBS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,063: 2m 4f) (11)

1 2333 AMAZE 28 (F,G) Lady Herries 10-11-10 ....W Greatrex (7)
2 443- ILE DE LIBRATE 39F (CD,G) R O'Sullivan 5-11-8 ....P Hide
3 40-3 WALKING TALL 25 (CD,F,G) T McGovern 8-11-8 C Murray (7)
4 3516 GAME DILEMMA 167 (F,G,S) J Mullins 8-11-3 ...A Bates (3)
5 2445 FOUNTAIN BID 17 (G) R Dean 7-10-9 ....—
6 5620 BIGWIG 26F (B,BF,F,G) G L Moore 6-10-9 ....M Batchelor (5)
7 -206 FLYING FOOTSIE 96 (S) M J Roberts 6-10-7 ....T Peoples (7)
8 0530 SIR VALENTINE 39 R Rowe 5-10-5 ....L Aspell
9 3102 SORBIERE 17 (F,S) D Grissell 12-10-4 ....S Fox
10 4000 HIPPARQUE 46 (B) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-3 ....R Greene
11 4210 NIGHT THYNE 13 (S) M J Roberts 7-10-0 ....A Garrity (7)

3-1 Amaze, 5-1 Ile De Librate, 7-1 Game Dilemma, Fountain Bid, 8-1 others.

4.00 JOKER JACK RETIREMENT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,020: 3m 1f 110yd) (8)

1 33P- ESPERANZA IV 364 (CD,G) M J Roberts 7-11-10 .T Peoples (7)
2 -31P CARAS ROSE 108 (G) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-6 ....P Hide
3 2132 BARONCELLI 100 (CD,S) M Wilkinson 9-11-3 M Batchelor (5)
4 FP53 SCOBIE GIRL 21 (C,S) J Mullins 9-10-11 ....A Bates (3)
5 6020 BRASSIS HILL 77 (G) R Rowe 8-10-9 ....A Garrity (7)
6 RF45 RAMBLING SAM 24 (T,S) G Balding 7-10-5 ....S Fox
7 /5P6 HARDY BREEZE 47 D Grissell 8-10-2 ....W Greatrex (7)
8 60RP SECURON GALE 95 R Rowe 7-10-2 ....L Aspell

6-4 Baroncelli, 7-2 Esperanza IV, Caras Rose, 6-1 Scobie Girl, 12-1 others.

4.30 HISCOX INSURANCE SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,618: 2m 5f) (8)

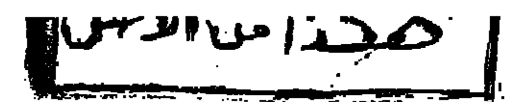
1 1646 WHIPPERS DELIGHT 17 (G) G C-Jones 11-12-0 ...T Peoples (7)
2 1245 MULLINTOR 56 (F,S) R Rowe 8-11-11 ....L Aspell
3 UU42 TIGER PAWS 16 (S) P R Webber 9-10-5 ....P Hide
4 2332 LYPHARD'S FABLE 69 (S) T George 8-10-3 ...M Batchelor (5)
5 5PP3 STRATTON FLYER 16 H Howe 9-10-0 ....A Bates (3)
6 6F5U LEITRIM COTTAGE 16 (B) T McGovern 8-10-0 ...C Murray (7)
7 455F JOKER JACK 21 (F,S) R Dean 14-10-0 ....R Greene
8 40P0 STAGE PLAYER 16 (D,G,S) Miss C Caroe 13-10-0 W Greatrex (7)

9-4 Tiger Paws, 3-1 Whippers Delight, 7-2 Lyphard's Fable, 8-1 others.

5.00 RACE VISION HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,303: 2m 1f) (6)

1 6011 LAFFAH 13 (T,D,G,S) M Pipe 12-0 ....R Greene
2 030 STOPWATCH 25 Mrs L Jewell 11-7 ....T Peoples (7)
3 6513 RIVER FRONTIER 10 (G,S) M Usher 11-2 ....[illegible]
4 0530 RED BROOK LAD 34F (B) S Dow 10-8 ....M Batchelor (5)
5 0303 BROOKSIE 19 (T) R Carson 10-1 ....[illegible]
6 0P04 DANCING DERVISH 32 S Mellor 10-0 ....[illegible]

11-10 Laffah, 4-1 River Frontier, Brooksie, 8-1 Stopwatch, 14-1 others.



RACING

Feathered Leader to relish test of stamina

By Chris McGrath

WITH many exhausted punters seeing a fresh start on the Flat, it is appropriate that the jumps season should try to retrieve their attention with its most duelling tests of stamina. The Martell Grand National on Saturday finds echoes over the following weekends in the Stakis Casinos Scottish National and Whitbread Gold Cup. This final crescendo of staying chases begins at Fairyhouse today with the Jameson Irish National.

After a long winter many rivals will envy Celtic Giant, who had just one race before running away with the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. The scale of his improvement was reflected in odds of 20-1, and while a quarter of the field was eliminated by a pile-up, he was in command a long way out and is clearly progressing. His forte, however, is bold jumping and galloping on a sound surface, and even improved conditions may not prevent this race proving more of a slog.

His fellow raider, Full Of Oats, is by contrast a remorseless stayer who needs mud. Rejuvenated by a change of stable, he has also enjoyed a light campaign, and was entitled to be feeling his hard race in the Eider Chase when disappointing last time.

The home defence ranges from classy handicappers like Papillon to the sort of unexposed novices that have a fine record in this race. Papillon is a real eccentric, remarkably versatile but not always wholly dependable. Though he has form over two miles, he bit off more than he could chew in the Queen Mother Champion Chase last time and may enjoy greater leisure to get himself involved back over this trip. He was denied only by Bobbyjo last year.

Among the novices, Feathered Leader also leaps up in trip. He was running a cracker when unseating Conor O'Dwyer three out in the Guinness Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham. Arthur Moore has always campaigned him like a good horse and he would prove well treated if a test of stamina vindicates that esteem. He is likely to be better served by the drying ground than his fellow novice, Manus The Man.

One of the season's themes has been the resurgence of Norman Williamson as a masterful big-race jockey, but he has recently been brought back to earth with a bump. After sickening injuries to Nick Dundee and Teeton Mill at Cheltenham, he must now ponder the potentially grave consequences of a drink-driving charge.

Bob Treacy, then, would be a friend in need if he could restore morale. A faller when strongly fancied last year, he has since confirmed his calibre, rattling Imperial Call and Dorans Pride at Punchestown before winning the valuable Thyestes Chase. A slow pace over an inadequate trip meant he did well even to get his nose in a photo at Leopardstown last time, as he is stoutly bred. This test could duly prompt improvement even beyond his relatively lofty rating.

Like Papillon, he has his quirks, but Williamson gets the best out of him. The sole caveat is that his best form is on softer ground, so he may be worth taking on with the dark horse, **Feathered Leader**.

FAIRYHOUSE FIELD

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

3.55 JAMESON IRISH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Grade I: £78,350: 3m 5f) (20 runners) — C4

1 651410 PAPILLON 19 (B,C,S) (Mrs J Maxwell Moran) T Walsh 8-12-0 ... R Walsh 134
2 3P1512 BOB TREACY 29 (C,S) (M Hickey) M Hickey 10-11-10 ... N Williamson 132
3 -11128 RIGHTSAIDFRED 20 (G,S) (P Bull) Miss A Newton-Smith 11-10-12 ... G Bradley [illegible]
4 33R-11 CELTIC GIANT 20 (F,G,S) (R Gilbert) L Lungo (GB) 9-10-9 ... R J Supple 136
5 403P40 TIME FOR A RUN 20 (G,S) (J McManus) E O'Grady 12-10-7 ... DOUBTFUL 133
6 203112 MANUS THE MAN 37 (S) (Attractive Syndicate) M Cunningham 8-10-6 ... J F Titley 140
7 6-3242 DRUID'S BROOK 24 (F,G,S) (Major A Everett) K Bailey (GB) 10-10-5 ... R Walsley 143
8 -F340U FEATHERED LEADER 20 (G,S) (M O'Connor) A L Moore 7-10-4 ... C O'Dwyer 126
9 34-123 FULL OF OATS 30 (BF,D,G,S) (M Bradford) P Hobbs (GB) 13-10-2 ... B Powell 136
10 352311 ROUNDWOOD 21 (C,G,S) (M Whelan) D Hughes 10-10-1 ... K A Kelly 132
11 -FP005 BALLYMACREVAN 12 (S) (Good Time Managers) I A Duncan 9-10-0 ... F J Flood 130
12 0403F3 GLEBE LAD 8F (BF,S) (T Conroy) M J O'Brien 7-10-0 ... T P Rudd 127
13 340413 ONEOFOUROWN 12 (B,BF,G,S) (T Hyland) S Donohoe 8-10-0 ... K P Gaule 131
14 -351F1 PAULS RUN 19 (C,G,S) (Diamond Syndicate) W Lanigan 10-10-0 ... L P Cusack 139
15 1-1R10 RISK OF THUNDER 99 (F,G,S) (S Connery) E Bolger 10-10-0 ... D J Casey 129
16 1U5U31 ROCKETTS CASTLE 29 (S) (Winning Post) Mrs S Bramall 9-10-0 ... B J Geraghty 136
17 232213 TARTHOOTH 22 (B,BF,S) (Mrs H de Burgh) A L Moore 8-10-0 ... T P Treacy 128
18 501242 THE QUADS 67 (G,S) (I Told You So Syndicate) A L Moore 7-10-0 ... P Carberry 131
19 34/045 THE REAL ARTICLE 16 (S) (W Brennan) G Stack 10-10-0 ... J R Barry 134
20 ?-P350 ULTRA FLUTTER 36 (G,S) (D Higgins) M Hourigan 12-10-0 ... P G Hourigan 134

Long handicap (in racecard order): Ballymacrevan 9-5, Glebe Lad 9-13, Oneofourown 8-11, Pauls Run 9-1, Risk Of Thunder 9-8, Rocketts Castle 9-10, Tarthooth 9-5, The Quads 9-9, The Real Article 9-9, Ultra Flutter 9-6.

BETTING: 6-1 Manus The Man, 7-1 Bob Treacey, Celtic Giant, Glebe Lad, The Quads, 8-1 Papillon, Roundwood, 10-1 Feathered Leader, 16-1 Druids Brook, Full Of Oats, Rightsaidfred, 20-1 Risk Of Thunder, Rocketts Castle, 33-1 others.

1998: BOBBYJO 8-11-3 P Carberry (8-1) T Carberry 22 ran

WINCANTON

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Estate Agent — 3.30 Walter's Destiny
2.30 Knight Templar — 4.00 Super Mac
3.00 Takethetopoff — 4.30 Yorkshire Edition

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.00 NINE HOLE 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES HURDLE (£2,542: 2m) (8 runners)

1 5151 ESTATE AGENT 11 (CD,F,G,S) P Nicholls 6-12-0 ... R Dunwoody
2 3P FLY IT ALONE 177 R Buckler 9-11-0 ... D O'Sullivan (7)
3 00- LAND OF CHIEFS 481 A T Murphy 6-11-0 ... G Supple (3)
4 3FPF LOBSTER COTTAGE 107 (D,F,G,S) K Bailey 11-11-0 ... W Walsh
5 402 MY MAN DAN 25 B De Haan 6-11-0 ... L Cummins (3)
6 400 PIDGEON POST 45 P Channings 6-11-0 ... R Widger (5)
7 2000 THANKS BIG FELLA 39 C Weedon 5-11-0 ... O Burrows (5)
8 0036 PROPER PRIMITIVE 38 C Drewe 6-10-9 ... Mr N Fehily (7)

10-11 Estate Agent, 11-8 My Man Dan, 14-1 Proper Primitive, 20-1 Thanks Big Fella, 25-1 Fly It Alone, Pidgeon Post, 33-1 others.

2.30 CADBURY BUSINESS PARK NOVICES CHASE (£3,246: 3m 1f 110yd) (5)

1 121P KNIGHT TEMPLAR 58 (G,S) P Nicholls 6-12-0 ... R Dunwoody
2 33P1 CHEROKEE BOY 13 (F,G,S) B Ryall 7-11-8 ... J Frost
3 /PP0 COOLE CHERRY 24 C Barwell 9-11-2 ... L Cummins (3)
4 3052 MILLCROFT REGATTA 27 (B) R Alner 7-11-2 ... R Widger (5)
5 54P5 DUNNICKS COUNTRY 24 C Tizzard 9-10-11 ... D O'Sullivan (7)

6-4 Knight Templar, 7-4 Cherokee Boy, 3-1 Millcroft Regatta, 16-1 Dunnicks Country, 25-1 Coole Cherry.

3.00 GOLF COURSE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,954: 2m) (10)

1 0-04 HERRINGSBY 21 R Buckler 5-11-6 ... D O'Sullivan (4)
2 5P20 AFON ALWEN 39 (G) P Hobbs 6-11-5 ... R Widger
3 6P00 ANOTHER BEVELED 38 (D,F) G McCourt 4-11-2 ... D Fortt
4 2130 SHADE D'AMETHYSTE 108F (B,D) M Pipe 4-11-1 ... C Durham (7)
5 -001 TAKETHETOPOFF 17 (G) J King 6-11-1 ... L Cummins
6 2544 AYEM 23 C Weedon 4-11-0 ... O Burrows
7 -24U GIVE AND TAKE 32 (S) R Frost 6-11-0 ... T O'Connor (4)
8 360P GOLDEN LILY 35 (BF,F,S) R Hodges 6-10-13 ... N Willmington (4)
9 5023 MISS ONDEE 12 (CD,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-10-13 ... G Supple
10 IMPETUOSITY 688F S Cole 5-10-7 ... Guy Lewis

6-4 Miss Ondee, 7-2 Shade D'amethyste, 5-1 Afon Alwen, 8-1 Takethetopoff, 10-1 Ayem, 12-1 Golden Lily, 14-1 Give And Take, 33-1 others.

3.30 CADBURY BUSINESS PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,570: 2m 6f) (17)

1 6424 HIGH SUMMER 195 (CD,F) C Mann 9-11-10 ... Mrs C J Mann
2 15-P BURLINGTON SAM 116 (D,G,S) A Hobbs 11-11-8 ... Guy Lewis (3)
3 3055 BOLTON FOREST 13 (T,G,S) C Mann 6-11-8 ... Mr N Fehily (7)
4 2-P6 NOBEL LAD 27 (B,S) M Pipe 5-11-9 ... G Supple (3)
5 2634 WALTER'S DESTINY 13 (CD,G) C Mitchell 7-11-7 ... G Upton
6 4F31 BUCKSKIN CAMEO 11 (CD,G,S) P Nicholls 6-11-5 ... R Dunwoody
7 2520 PAULTON 121 (B,G) K Bishop 6-11-2 ... G Brace (7)
8 6221 BLUE BLAZER 19 (D,S) R Frost 9-11-1 ... J Frost
9 0064 EHTEFAAL 25 (BF,F,G) J King 8-10-12 ... L Cummins (3)
10 4/5- REAL MADRID 411 (G) P Bowen 9-10-12 ... D Fortt (3)
11 -PP0 SAAFI 46 (B,G,S) C Popham 8-10-12 ... D O'Sullivan (7)
12 0400 DARING KING 13 (D,F,S) M Bolton 9-10-11 ... T Dascombe
13 634- CHICAGO'S BEST 546 (F,G) M Coombe 12-10-9 ... Miss M Coombe
14 FP0/ RELKOWEN 733 (F) P Hobbs 9-10-7 ... R Widger (5)
15 2-03 REGAL GEM 11 (F,G) C Barwell 8-10-4 ... T O'Connor (7)
16 0000 BANJO HILL 12 C Weedon 5-10-2 ... O Burrows (5)
17 00P0 BARNANE WALK 10 J Tuck 7-10-0 ... R Bellamy

11-4 Buckskin Cameo, 7-2 Blue Blazer, 8-1 Walter's Destiny, 10-1 others.

4.00 IMPROVE YOUR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,501: 2m) (9)

1 4220 ROBINS PRIDE 18 (CD,G,S) C Popham 9-11-10 ... L Cummins (5)
2 0511 SUPER MAC 13 (D,F,S) P Hedger 6-11-2 ... T Dascombe
3 22F2 CONNAUGHT CRACKER 21 (BF,F) P Nicholls 9-11-0 ... R Dunwoody
4 3240 QUANGO 16 (B,D,G,S) C Mann 7-10-12 ... Mr N Fehily (7)
5 1-0P PRIMITIVE STREAK 133 (BF,S) R Hodges 8-10-6 ... G Upton
6 3/F- NECTANEBO 387 (D,F) B Ryall 11-10-5 ... J Frost
7 U4P2 FAR EAST 111 (D,F) B De Haan 10-10-0 ... O Burrows (5)
8 5P35 KILLONE RIVER 118 (S) R Alner 7-10-0 ... R Widger (5)
9 3455 HUGH DANIELS 144 (G) C Hettreley 11-10-0 ... Miss A Dudley (7)

7-4 Connaught Cracker, 5-2 Super Mac, 11-2 Robins Pride, 7-1 others.

4.30 PAY AND PLAY 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES HURDLE (£2,738: 2m 6f) (6)

1 -41P YORKSHIRE EDITION 95 (BF,CD) P Nicholls 6-11-7 ... R Dunwoody
2 0/P- BOOZYS DREAM 396 N Thomson 9-11-0 ... R Bellamy
3 4/0P BROTHER NERO 21 A Hobbs 7-11-0 ... Guy Lewis (3)
4 /1/0 FOR CHRISTIE 131 (S) N Hawke 10-11-0 ... R Widger (5)
5 605 SUPREME FIONA 108 P Nicholls 6-11-0 ... L Cummins (3)
6 4/PP KICKLES LASS 19 (B) S Cole 10-10-9 ... T O'Connor (7)

1-2 Yorkshire Edition, 2-1 Supreme Fiona, 16-1 For Christie, 33-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Nicholls, 42 winners from 139 runners, 30.2%; M Pipe, 37 from 158, 23.4%; K Bailey, 10 from 46, 21.7%; P Bowen, 4 from 26, 15.4%; J King, 9 from 60, 15.0%; R Alner, 17 from 132, 12.9%.

JOCKEYS: L Cummins, 7 winners from 33 rides, 21.2%; R Dunwoody, 19 from 99, 19.2%; O Burrows, 4 from 22, 18.2%; T Dascombe, 10 from 96, 10.4%.

CARLISLE

ROB WRIGHT
2.15 Ackzo — 3.45 Minella Gold
2.45 Dragons Bay — 4.15 Executive Design
3.15 Allerbeck — 4.45 Major Tom — 5.15 Grouse Hall
Carl Evans: 4.45 Major Tom.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

2.15 CARLISLE RACE CLUB MEMBERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,654: 2m 4f 110yd) (18 runners)

1 2221 ACKZO 44 (D,S) F Murphy 6-11-6 ... Mr J P McNamara (5)
2 03-0 ANSIAS 273 N P McCormack 6-11-0 ... A Dobbin
3 63 ARISAIG 18 N Waggott 5-11-0 ... S Taylor
4 -354 CHOICE CUT 38 T Caldwell 6-11-0 ... R McGrath
5 -RP0 FANION DE NOURRY 72 T Caldwell 6-11-0 ... D Bentley
6 HIGH INTRIGUE 271F R N Bevis 5-11-0 ... C McCormack (3)
7 00 LAMBRINI PRINCE 12 Mrs L Williamson 5-11-0 ... J Callaghan
8 600 LUCK IN RUN'IN 121 R N Bevis 6-11-0 ... Mr B Gibson (7)
9 0-P MAJOTO 44 J R Turner 6-11-0 ... I Jardine (7)
10 MR PENDLEBERRY P Beaumont 5-11-0 ... B Grattan (3)
11 00 NIP ON 48 J R Turner 5-11-0 ... W Dowling (5)
12 3 NORTHERN GENERAL 173 J Jefferson 6-11-0 ... R Guest
13 F0/P PRIME STYLE 20 (F,G) J Howard Johnson 10-11-0 ... D J Moffatt
14 U442 RIVER DOUGLAS 10 (B) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-0 ... Mr C Wilson
15 -P24 STONEHILL 65 (S) J Howard Johnson 6-11-0 ... D Parker
16 01P HUGO DE GREZ 25 (S) C Parker 4-10-13 ... B Storey
17 1-50 BLACK BOOK 44 (S) E Elliott 6-10-9 ... G F Ryan (3)
18 3-4 SOLWAY ROSE 222 J J O'Neill 5-10-9 ... L Cooper (7)

11-10 Ackzo, 5-1 Northern General, 8-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 others.

2.45 KIRKANDREWS-ON-EDEN NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,126: 2m 4f 110yd) (18)

1 413F MR FRANGIPANI 42 (BF,S) N Richards 8-12-0 ... A Dobbin
2 U311 DRAGONS BAY 16 (B,C,S) Mrs Reveley 10-11-11 ... Mr A Dempsey
3 6-00 CRAIGARY 60 (G) Mrs A Swinbank 8-11-8 ... Mr C Wilson
4 23F3 AREN'T WE LUCKY 42 J J O'Neill 6-11-4 ... R McGrath
5 0F32 MADEMIST SAM 16 P Beaumont 7-10-12 ... B Grattan (3)
6 5F31 CHARNWOOD JACK 18 M Todhunter 6-10-12 ... C McCormack (3)
7 F160 BOYZONTOOWA 40 (D,F,S) W Storey 7-10-11 ... I Jardine (7)
8 /02- JONAEM 549 (D,F) Mrs E Slack 9-10-7 ... L Cooper (7)
9 -4P5 FAN O'ESTRUVAL 34 M Todhunter 6-10-7 ... R Guest
10 PPP1 DOOK'S DELIGHT 18 (D,G,S) R Fahey 8-10-7 ... Mr J McNamara (5)
11 3120 BROMFORD HOUSE 173 (S) G M Moore 6-10-5 ... J Callaghan
12 04B2 TURKISH TOWER 18 (S) R Nixon 8-10-4 ... S Taylor
13 /21/ WOODY DARE 749 (D,F) P Needham 9-10-4 ... G F Ryan (3)
14 3F54 LORD BULLAH 20 (D,F,S) J Wade 8-10-4 ... D Parker
15 -S56 SIBMISTER 62 C Parker 7-10-4 ... B Storey
16 053P KEEP CLEAR 72 (G,S) C Grant 9-10-3 ... Mr B Gibson (7)
17 000P LARKSHILL 37 (D,S) J FitzGerald 8-10-0 ... F Leahy
18 6P-0 CRANNON BEAUTY 44 (T) D Alder 9-10-0 ... D Bentley

11-4 Dragons Bay, 7-1 Mr Frangipani, Aren't We Lucky, 8-1 others.

3.15 MICHAEL DE GARA 50TH BIRTHDAY NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES HURDLE (£2,612: 2m 1f) (20)

1 401 GUNNER MARC 62 (G) J Jefferson 5-11-1 ... R Guest
2 U3PP BUFFS BOY 100 P Monteith 8-11-0 ... F Leahy
3 -260 DYNAMIC LORD 77 (S) T Tate 5-11-0 ... J Callaghan
4 /5-2 EASBY BLUE 305 (S) S Kettlewell 7-11-0 ... Mr J P McNamara (5)
5 14 FOX'S LIBEL 173 (G) J FitzGerald 4-11-0 ... P Ryan (7)
6 5155 GRIMALDI LAD 111 (G) M Hammond 5-11-0 ... D Bentley
7 454 IMPERTIO 16 P Beaumont 5-11-0 ... B Grattan (3)
8 5325 LOBBINGALONG 16 N Richards 5-11-0 ... A Dobbin
9 0F0- MR MCDUCK 371 E Elliott 7-11-0 ... G F Ryan (3)
10 /PP- QUEENSBORO LAD 373P Mrs K Lamb 11-11-0 ... Miss S Lamb
11 5 STORMY FABLE 23 J Oliver 6-11-0 ... Mr A Parker
12 THE GREY DYER L Lungo 5-11-0 ... W Dowling (5)
13 0 TWO POOLS 62 M Todhunter 6-11-0 ... C McCormack (3)
14 P016 ALLERBECK 7 (T,CD,S) J Goulding 9-10-9 ... L Cooper (7)
15 0653 LAURENLUKE 95 B Bousfield 7-10-9 ... S Taylor
16 F4P4 SUPREME TARGET 34 J Charlton 7-10-9 ... Mr M Bradburne (3)
17 -332 WILLA THYNE 150 R Allan 5-10-9 ... B Storey
18 HARLOV C Parker 4-10-8 ... D Parker
19 03 SALVAGE 16 W Haigh 4-10-8 ... R McGrath
20 000 TYNEMINE 28 B Ellison 4-10-3 ... Mr A Dempsey

11-4 Fox's Libel, 9-2 Gunner Marc, 8-1 Easby Blue, Willa Thyne, 12-1 others.

3.45 JOHN DIXON HANDICAP CHASE (£3,794: 3m 2f) (14)

1 54-0 ACAJOU III 37 (F,G) M Todhunter 11-11-10 ... R Guest
2 4U5P ALY DALEY 44 (F,G,S) J Johnson 11-11-5 ... Mr J P McNamara (5)
3 242P COMMITTED SCHEDULE 35 (CD,F,G,S) N Richards 8-10-13 ... A Dobbin
4 3340 IVY HOUSE 14 (B,G,S) J J O'Neill 11-10-13 ... R McGrath
5 -P13 NIJWAY 14 (C,F,G,S) M Barnes 9-10-12 ... S Taylor
6 3216 GALE FORCE 10 (C,F,G,S) P Beaumont 8-10-2 ... B Grattan (3)
7 6P23 MINELLA GOLD 58 (G,S) L Lungo 10-10-1 ... Mr B Gibson (7)
8 1413 THE SNOW BURN 51 (B,S) T Tate 6-10-1 ... Mr A Dempsey
9 21F4 LE DENSTAN 177 (C,F,G,S) B Mactaggart 12-10-1 ... B Storey
10 -135 CELTIC DUKE 124 (BF,F) M Hammond 7-10-1 ... D Bentley
11 4-40 PEBBLE BEACH 124 (T,F,G) G M Moore 9-10-0 ... J Callaghan
12 PPPP CALL THE SHOTS 10 (F,S) J Wade 10-10-0 ... D Parker
13 12-P CAMPTOSAURUS 47 (F) D Alder 10-10-0 ... L Cooper (7)
14 F664 POLITICAL MANDATE 7 R Nixon 6-10-0 ... C McCormack (3)

11-2 Committed Schedule, 6-1 Ivy House, 13-2 The Snow Burn, Celtic Duke, 8-1 Nijway, Gale Force, Le Denstan, 10-1 others.

4.15 BORDER TELEVISION HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,738: 2m 1f) (10)

1 B33P VALEDICTORY 23 (CD,S) P Monteith 6-12-0 ... Mr J McNamara (5)
2 -003 EXECUTIVE DESIGN 23 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-9 ... Mr A Dempsey
3 2336 DAN DE MAN 31 (BF,G,S) Miss L Siddall 8-11-8 ... A Dobbin
4 1030 EPONINE 10 (F,G,S) E Elliott 5-11-6 ... G F Ryan (3)
5 U336 CAP IT IF YOU CAN 38 (S) T Caldwell 6-11-1 ... R McGrath
6 4110 JUST LIZZIE 10 (CD,S) R Nixon 6-10-8 ... L Cooper (7)
7 4432 FAIR AND FANCY 25 (BF,G,S) Miss K Milligan 8-10-2 ... F Leahy
8 164U CUTTING ANSHAKE 166F (D,F,G) M Todhunter 4-10-0 ... C McCormack (3)
9 5P5P COMMON SOUND 14 (T,S) J Barclay 8-10-0 ... B Storey
10 6112 ORIEL LAD 20 (CD,F,G) Miss K Milligan 6-10-0 ... B Grattan (3)

3-1 Executive Design, 7-1 Dan De Man, Eponine, Fair And Fancy, Oriel Lad, 8-1 Valedictory, Just Lizzie, Cutting Anshake, 10-1 others.

4.45 JOHN MCKIE MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (£1,155: 3m 2f) (12)

1 13-5 BARNEY THE MAN 190 (G) R Ford 7-12-7 ... Mr R Ford (3)
2 50P2 BORDER GLORY 9P (S) W M Scott 8-12-7 ... Mr K Renwick (7)
3 FP CARRICK TROOP 16 Mrs M Reveley 6-12-7 ... Mr A Dempsey
4 6-11 FENLOE RAMBLER 50P (T,G,S) R Johnson 8-12-7 ... Mr P Johnson (3)
5 132F MULLINGAR CON 14 (G) C Grant 11-12-7 ... Mrs S Grant (7)
6 32-1 FLORUCEVA 23P (S) B McNichol 9-12-2 ... Mr J P McNamara
7 P335 GOLF BALL 9P Mrs J Newitt 9-12-0 ... Mr G Markham (7)
8 -321 KEEPER'S CALL 15P (G,S) R G Makin 7-12-0 ... Mr C Mulhall (7)
9 -122- HOLUCKMATE 15P (G,S) R Barfield 7-12-0 ... Mr A Parker (3)
10 /1-5 PRESS TO STING 23P (F,G) A Mactaggart 10-12-0 ... Mr M Bradburne
11 -511 REDOMI 23P (S) E Fenwick 7-12-0 ... Mr C Wilson (3)
12 0-11 MAJOR TOM 50P (G,S) T Tate 5-11-5 ... Mr J J Tate (7)

7-2 Fenloe Rambler, 5-1 Carrick Troop, Major Tom, 11-2 Redomi, 7-1 Mullingar Con, Floruceva, 10-1 Keeper's Call, 16-1 others.

5.15 BOWNESS INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,683: 2m 1f) (20)

1 1 GROUSE HALL 23 (S) G M Moore 5-11-11 ... J Callaghan
2 1 DENARIUS 25 (CD,S) W Haigh 4-11-5 ... R Guest
3 BANNERMAN N Richards 6-11-4 ... A Dobbin
4 04 BLUE BUD 37 J FitzGerald 5-11-4 ... P Ryan (7)
5 BUNCLE W Kemp 6-11-4 ... S Taylor
6 BROOKSBY WHORLTON F Murphy 5-11-4 ... I Jardine (7)
7 04 GENERAL LOUIS 58 F Murphy 5-11-4 ... Mr J P McNamara (5)
8 5 GREY ABBEY 14 F Murtagh 5-11-4 ... Mr D Jewett (7)
9 0 HANDSOME HENRY 89 N Richards 6-11-4 ... L Cooper (7)
10 4 LITTLE WORSALL 28 Miss K Milligan 6-11-4 ... F Leahy
11 PURE STEEL J Charlton 5-11-4 ... Mr M Bradburne (3)
12 0 TENNAROW 79 C Parker 5-11-4 ... B Storey
13 0 TOP OF THE SNOBS 37 Mrs G Rees 5-11-4 ... G F Ryan (3)
14 0 ZAAMAIN 58 (T) N Waggott 5-11-4 ... Mr B Gibson (7)
15 0 CLEIKUMIN 14 R Shiels 6-10-13 ... D Parker
16 JOYFUL AGAIN J Dixon 5-10-13 ... H Bastiman (3)
17 642 HAMISH MOR 25 W McKeown 4-10-12 ... C McCormack (3)
18 63 JUST TOM 23 M Hammond 4-10-12 ... D Bentley
19 NOUSAYRI J J O'Neill 4-10-12 ... R McGrath
20 6 WHAT YOU MEAN 28 M Pell 4-10-12 ... D Pears

4-1 Grouse Hall, 9-2 Denarius, 6-1 Hamish Mor, 7-1 Nousayri, 8-1 Just Tom, 12-1 Bannerman, Blue Bud, General Louis, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Carlisle

TRAINERS: N Richards, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 28 from 103, 27.2%; Mrs A Swinbank, 8 from 36, 22.2%; J FitzGerald, 5 from 23, 21.7%; P Monteith, 8 from 43, 18.6%; L Lungo, 21 from 115, 18.3%; J R Turner, 3 from 18, 16.7%; P Beaumont, 5 from 32, 15.6%; C Grant, 3 from 22, 13.6%; B Mactaggart, 5 from 37, 13.5%.

JOCKEYS: A Dobbin, 27 winners from 136 rides, 19.9%; W Dowling, 4 from 22, 18.2%; B Grattan, 5 from 33, 15.2%; J Callaghan, 7 from 49, 14.3%; R Guest, 10 from 72, 13.9%; D Bentley, 5 from 37, 13.5%; B Storey, 19 from 155, 12.3%; J Burke, 4 from 40, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

Hereford

TRAINERS: P Murphy, 8 winners from 28 runners, 28.6%; N Gaselee, 4 from 16, 25.0%; D Nicholson, 6 from 27, 22.2%; O Sherwood, 4 from 19, 21.1%; N Twiston-Davies, 21 from 101, 20.8%; Mrs J Pitman, 3 from 19, 15.8%; D Burchell, 4 from 29, 13.8%; R Lee, 5 from 41, 12.2%; Miss H Knight, 4 from 35, 11.4%; P Bowen, 5 from 47, 10.6%.

JOCKEYS: J McCarthy, 6 winners from 31 rides, 19.4%; D J Burchell, 4 from 30, 13.3%; S Wynne, 11 from 85, 12.9%; R Thornton, 6 from 53, 11.3%. Only qualifiers.

HEREFORD

ROB WRIGHT
2.25 New Bird — 4.10 Northern Saddler
3.00 Divine Inspiration — 4.45 Royal Tommy
3.35 Lucky Ross — 5.20 Citizen Kane

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.25 ROSS-ON-WYE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £3,009: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

1 1240 NEW BIRD 18 (S) D Nicholson 11-0 ... R Thornton
2 ELHABUB 76F D Burchell 11-0 ... D J Burchell
3 P LAWFUL CONTRACT 38 G Roe 11-0 ... S Graham (7)
4 P005 MY LOST LOVE 21 (T) A Hollingsworth 11-0 ... Mr T Gibney (5)
5 0 TINGED WITH GOLD 86 Miss H Knight 11-0 ... D Leahy
6 GO POSITIVE 170F M Cumpton 10-9 ... S Wynne

4-11 New Bird, 7-1 Elhabub, Tinged With Gold, 10-1 Go Positive, 25-1 others.

3.00 JAMES DALY HUNTERS CHASE (£2,442: 2m 3f) (17)

1 P-1F BOXING MATCH 9P (F,G,S) S R Brown 12-12-10 ... Mr S Lloyd (7)
2 P-33 NODFORM WONDER 12 (F,G,S) R Bevis 12-12-7 ... Mr R Bevis (7)
3 253U CHANNEL PASTIME 16P (F,G,S) Mrs J Evans 15-12-0 ... Miss S Talbot (7)
4 45-U DAYTIME DAWN 12 (S) R Cole 8-12-0 ... Mr S Morris (7)
5 0PFF ILEWIN 15P (D,F,G,S) Libby Tower 12-12-0 ... Mr G Lake (7)
6 UP11 J B LAD 16P (G,S) H Tirk 13-12-0 ... Dr P Pritchard (3)
7 PP46 NATIVE RAMBLER 24 (S) Mrs S Price 9-12-0 ... Mr S Blackwell (7)
8 00-P SAVUTI 46 (F,G) C Bowen 10-12-0 ... Mr T Gibney (3)
9 FR-P STRONG TRACE 31 (B,S) F Matthews 10-12-0 ... Mr A Eastman (7)
10 -PP4 WILLIE MAKEIT 9P (B,F,G) Mrs A Tory 9-12-0 ... Mrs M Barlow (7)
11 -P0P COURT NAP 37P (B,F) Lady Connell 7-11-10 ... Miss H Irving (7)
12 41-P DIVINE INSPIRATION 23P (BF,G) P Hart 7-11-10 ... Mr P Hardy (7)
13 U-U5 HUFFIN AND PUFFIN 37P (S) A Walter 7-11-10 ... Mr R Wace (3)
14 0322 BEL LANE 23P (BF,F,G) Mrs C Hardinge 10-11-5 ... Miss E James (7)
15 PP5 ROSCOES DINKY 9P Mrs A Turner 12-11-5 ... Mr P Costello (7)
16 6P RACE TO FAME 15P A Whiting 6-11-5 ... Mr G Weatherley (7)
17 PUPP SMALL FLAME 15P R E Gray 8-11-5 ... Dr B R Foster (7)

7-4 Boxing Match, 9-4 Nodform Wonder, 11-2 Divine Inspiration, 7-1 others.

3.35 HOLIDAY NOVICES HURDLE (£3,116: 3m 2f) (12)

1 4-13 HAREM SCAREM 16 (S) M Pitman 8-11-6 ... L Corcoran (7)
2 3212 SUPREME DAY 66 (F,S) D Nicholson 6-11-8 ... R Thornton
3 F33P DADDY DANCER 34 Mrs P Ford 8-11-2 ... S Graham (7)
4 0P ELTEC LESTER 58 S Brookshaw 6-11-2 ... Mr G Lake (7)
5 130 HAPPY HUSSAR 24 (S) H Daly 6-11-2 ... S Wynne
6 0-00 HENRY TUDOR 12 A Jones 7-11-2 ... D Leahy
7 0065 INFERNO 58 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-2 ... T Jenks
8 6-0P KILGAL 30 A Hollingsworth 6-11-2 ... Mr T Gibney (5)
9 5-06 KNOCKAROO 32 (G) D Wintle 8-11-2 ... J Mogford (7)
10 -0P0 LARRUS AURELIUS 31 O Sherwood 6-11-2 ... J A McCarthy
11 3623 LUCKY ROSS 37 (F) H Daly 8-11-2 ... S Wynne
12 0 STRUGGLING ON 124 P Bowen 6-11-2 ... Mr P Costello (7)

2-1 Supreme Day, [illegible] Harem Scarem, 7-2 Lucky Ross, 8-1 Happy Hussar, 10-1 [illegible], 12-1 Daddy Dancer, Larrus Aurelius, 20-1 others.

4.10 NEWTOWN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,550: 2m) (7)

1 1366 FERRUFINO 24 (D,F,G) P Rich 11-12-0 ... L Corcoran (7)
2 1-4P NAPGO 155 (F) O Sherwood 7-10-12 ... D Leahy
3 2233 NORTHERN SADDLER 16 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 12-10-11 ... R Thornton
4 3444 MARVULANE 133 Mrs C Black 9-10-8 ... S Wynne
5 2464 ASTRAL INVASION 34 (B,CD,F,G) T Wall 8-10-1 ... J Mogford (7)
6 05P5 MARAMOUR 49 (CD,F) R Lee 12-10-0 ... Mr P Costello (7)
7 54PP ESKLEYBROOK 34 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-0 ... T Jenks

5-2 Northern Saddler, 4-1 Eskleybrook, 9-2 Astral Invasion, 5-1 Marvulane, 7-1 Ferrufino, 8-1 Napgo, 10-1 Maramour.

4.45 MARLBROOK NOVICES CHASE (£3,485: 3m 1f 110yd) (6)

1 P21- NO JOKER 679 (CD,F,G) N Gaselee 11-11-6 ... D Leahy
2 P-35 CHERRY ORCHID 12 J R Hughes 12-11-2 ... T Jenks
3 PP22 ROYAL TOMMY 42 (B,S) O Sherwood 7-11-2 ... J A McCarthy
4 5PF THE HONEST POACHER 25 (G) H Daly 9-11-2 ... R Thornton
5 1-P0 WINTER GAME 87 (F) H Daly 5-11-2 ... S Wynne
6 .52- PAMALYN 505 (BF) S Brookshaw 7-10-11 ... Mr G Lake (7)

7-4 Royal Tommy, 2-1 No Joker, 5-1 The Honest Poacher, 7-1 Pamalyn, 8-1 Cherry Orchid, 25-1 Winter Game.

5.20 PETERSTOW NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,438: 2m 3f 110yd) (14)

1 0642 BEEFY NOVA 46 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-13 ... T Jenks
2 4625 OTHER CLUB 31 (T) J Portman 5-11-5 ... R Thornton
3 00P1 CITIZEN KANE 28 (G) O Sherwood 5-11-5 ... J A McCarthy
4 6PF1 BERKELEY FRONTIER 12 (S) N Gaselee 6-10-12 ... D Leahy
5 0053 ALIABAD 13 P Murphy 4-10-7 ... L Corcoran (7)
6 4400 FLAHIVE'S FIRST 12 (G) R J Price 5-10-6 ... J Mogford (7)
7 -135 LATE ENCOUNTER 116 (D,F,S) R Brown 8-10-1 ... M Keighley (7)
8 550P BAD BERTRICH 39 (F,G) G Roe 8-10-1 ... S Graham (7)
9 60P0 ISCA MAIDEN 13 P Hayward 5-10-0 ... S Wynne
10 3460 FOREST MILL 117 J Spearing 7-10-0 ... DOUBTFUL
11 0055 DANCING IN RIO 12 T P Walshe 7-10-0 ... —
12 00P0 SHAH 32 A Hobbs 6-10-0 ... —
13 0PP DOUBLE RUSH 32 T Keddy 7-10-0 ... Mr P Costello (7)
14 P00P SPENCER STALLONE 42 G Roe 6-10-0 ... Mr T Gibney (5)

11-4 Beefy Nova, 7-2 Citizen Kane, 11-2 Other Club, 6-1 others.

CHEPSTOW

ROB WRIGHT
2.00 Joliver — 3.30 City Hall
2.30 Norski Lad — 4.00 Flapjack Lad — 4.30 Russell Road
3.00 In The Blood — 5.00 Handy Lass

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

2.00 SPRINGTIME CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,968: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 2-2P RUSTY REEL 32 (C,S) W G M Turner 9-11-12 ... J Power (7)
2 3-50 JOLIVER 20 (D,S) M Pipe 11-11-8 ... A P McCoy
3 PP06 CAPTAIN MORRIS 12 (V) P Wegmann 7-11-6 ... D Matthews
4 0062 SAINT CIEL 31 (T,D,G,S) F Jordan 11-11-4 ... R Johnson
5 4-04 MONTONE 116 Mrs C Hicks 9-11-2 ... M Keighley (7)
6 0-50 FORMIDABLE FLAME 44F G Ham 6-11-0 ... S Burrough
7 P030 SUPREME MASTER 12 (G,S) Miss C Johnsey 9-11-0 ... J Tizzard
8 2/25 DANCING AT LAHARN 128 (G) Mrs S Wilton 9-10-12 ... C Maude
9 0P26 GOLDEN FILM 26 (T,S) B Llewellyn 11-10-12 ... E Husband
10 14P6 INFAMOUS 12 (T,F,G) P Llewellyn 6-10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald
11 P065 SEE MINNOW 13 Mrs S Waterman 6-10-9 ... M Scales (7)
12 -5P0 FLICKERING LIGHT 61 Mrs I Havard 8-10-7 ... J Magee

4-1 Rusty Reel, Saint Ciel, 9-2 Joliver, 6-1 Montone, 8-1 others.

2.30 CASTLE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,220: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 0-P1 BALLET HIGH 12 (C,S) R Dickin 6-11-5 ... A P McCoy
2 1542 TAIN TON 32 (BF,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-5 ... C Maude
3 110 NORSKI LAD 65 (S) P Nicholls 4-11-3 ... J Tizzard
4 1/ KNIGHTSBRIDGE STAR 1836 (G) Miss V Williams 10-11-0 ... Mr D O'Meara (7)
5 2/P0 OTAGO HEIGHTS 24 Mrs J Parron 7-11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald
6 05/6 RAISE AND GAIN 13 Mrs S Johnson 8-11-0 ... S Burrough
7 4/P5 SHEEPCOTE HILL 13 D Nicholson 8-11-0 ... R Johnson
8 0-6P TRAVELLING MAN 77 Miss C Johnsey 7-11-0 ... J Magee
9 -050 TURN OF THE TIDE 12 N Mitchell 6-11-0 ... M Keighley (7)
10 00 WATTS THE POINT 87 T George 6-11-0 ... E Husband
11 5000 CAULD SIGNAL 81 Graham Richards 6-10-9 ... J Power (7)

6-4 Norski Lad, 7-2 Ballet High, Tain Ton, 7-1 Knightsbridge Star, 16-1 others.

3.00 FULKE WALWYN HANDICAP CHASE (£5,784: 2m 3f 110yd) (6)

1 1F-P BENGERS MOOR 162 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-10 ... J Tizzard
2 -3F6 JATHIB 20 (B,F,G) M Pipe 8-11-9 ... A P McCoy
3 -111 IN THE BLOOD 23 (CD,G,S) P Hobbs 8-11-3 ... C Maude
4 2310 DANTES CAVALIER 18 (F,G,S) D Gandolfo 9-11-1 ... R Johnson
5 4122 AMBLESIDE 9 (G,S) Mrs S Williams 8-10-0 ... E Husband
6 613- FRYS NO FOOL 354 (CD,G,S) J Old 9-10-0 ... M A Fitzgerald

5-2 Jathib, 3-1 In The Blood, 7-2 Dantes Cavalier, 9-2 Bengers Moor, 5-1 others.

3.30 WELSH CHAMPION HURDLE (£6,905: 2m 110yd) (4)

1 1214 POTENTATE 18 (CD,F,G,S) M Pipe 8-11-12 ... A P McCoy
2 F166 TIUTCHEV 20 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-12 ... M A Fitzgerald
3 323F ZAFARABAD 20 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-12 ... R Johnson
4 2320 CITY HALL 20 (D,G,S) Mrs V Ward 5-11-8 ... J Tizzard

7-4 Tiutchev, 2-1 Potentate, 4-1 Zafarabad, City Hall.

4.00 FREELINE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,163: 3m 2f 110yd) (13)

1 P52F ELOUIS 20 (B,T,S) M Pipe 7-11-11 ... A P McCoy
2 3-15 MYSTIC ISLE 30 (B,D,G,S) N Gaselee 9-11-9 ... D Matthews
3 1F12 MONICASMAN 21 (F,G,S) G McCourt 9-11-3 ... E Husband
4 6402 SOPHIE MAY 28 (B,F,S) Derrick Morris 8-11-1 ... M Scales (7)
5 F451 TRUE FORTUNE 19 (B,D,G,S) V Dartnall 9-11-0 ... J Magee
6 1104 DANCETILLYOUDROP 35 (D,S) P Nicholls 8-11-0 ... J Tizzard
7 21-0 RED LIGHTER 12 (D,S) J Old 10-10-9 ... R Johnson
8 541U BALLY LIRA 16 (C,D,S) P Rodford 7-10-5 ... S Burrough
9 3122 MOORLAND HIGHFLYER 41 (D) A Hobbs 8-10-4 ... Mr D O'Meara (7)
10 4402 FLAPJACK LAD 34 (CD,S) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-2 ... C Maude
11 -435 FREELINE FONTAINE 66 (G) N Henderson 7-10-2 ... M A Fitzgerald
12 2BP0 MAURACHAS 27 (G,S) M Sheppard 9-10-0 ... J Power (7)
13 243F HIGH MOOD 19 (G,S) T George 9-10-0 ... DOUBTFUL

5-1 True Fortune, 6-1 Mystic Isle, 13-2 Monicasman, 7-1 others.

4.30 CASTLE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,206: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 2110 RASH REMARK 19 (S) M Pipe 6-11-10 ... A P McCoy
2 1321 RUSSELL ROAD 24 (G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-10 ... R Johnson
3 1113 COUNT CAMPIONI 23 (D,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-5 ... M A Fitzgerald
4 0443 BALLYNABRAGGET 21 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 ... C Maude
5 13/P CARRY THE CARD 93 (S) I Williams 8-11-0 ... E Husband
6 P/0 CHARLIE BIGTIME 32 I R Brown 9-11-0 ... Mr A Brown
7 60 GEORGIC BLAZE 232 G Ham 6-11-0 ... S Burrough
8 40 PUZZLEMAN 32 D Caro 6-11-0 ... J Magee
9 0304 STRONG MAGIC 31 (T) Miss C Johnsey 7-11-0 ... J Tizzard
10 503 BURNT HONEY 30 R Dickin 5-10-9 ... D J Burchell
11 0 HOTTENTOT 42 J Old 6-10-9 ... J Power (7)

11-8 Rash Remark, 2-1 Russell Road, 3-1 Count Campioni, 16-1 others.

5.00 EASTER SURPRISE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,074: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1 P-32 BELMORE ROCK 67 (B,BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 12-11-12 ... A P McCoy
2 0331 HANDY LASS 12 (CD,F,G,S) J S Smith 10-10-11 ... R Johnson
3 2210 PROVINCE 17 (B,S) C Mann 6-10-10 ... J Magee
4 055F QUISTAQUAY 23 (V,CD,S) J Mullins 7-10-10 ... J Tizzard
5 -3PP OH DONNA 87 (BF,G) N Henderson 7-10-8 ... M A Fitzgerald
6 3213 SUNRISE SPECIAL 12 (S) P Rodford 6-10-8 ... S Burrough
7 0.2- FROZEN SEA 546 (BF,F) Mrs J Evans 8-10-8 ... M Scales (7)
8 615P CENTO 27 (B,S) Mrs S Williams 6-10-4 ... Mr D O'Meara (7)
9 6010 SKRAM 44 (F,G,S) R Dickin 6-10-3 ... D J Burchell
10 0PP- CASSIO'S BOY 377 (V,CD,G,S) C McCourt 8-10-0 ... E Husband
11 1332 GRANBY BELL 56 (S) P Hayward 8-10-0 ... J Power (7)
12 0003 MANCINI 31 J Old 6-10-0 ... C Maude

7-2 Belmore Rock, 6-1 Handy Lass, Sunrise Special, Skram, 7-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 8 winners from 17 runners, 47.1%; P Nicholls, 32 from 103, 31.1%; P Hobbs, 27 from 104, 26.0%; J Old, 9 from 43, 20.9%; D Nicholson, 17 from 83, 20.5%; J Mullins, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Tizzard, 11 winners from 27 rides, 40.7%; A McCoy, 36 from 154, [illegible]

TOWCESTER

ROB WRIGHT
2.15 Summer Flower — 3.50 Peninsula Boy
2.45 Hightown Cavalier — 4.25 Avostar — 4.55 Miss Chloe
3.15 Kinnahalla — 5.25 Crackrattle
Carl Evans: 4.25 Jupiter Moon.

GOING: GOOD

2.15 MATCH OF THE DAY LIVE EVENT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,828: 2m) (11 runners)

1 FR-F REWARD 129 D Williams 5-11-11 ... D Griffiths
2 02P3 INCLINATION 17 (S) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-6 ... L Suthern (7)
3 2614 CHOPIN 137 (V,T,D,G,S) Miss A Stokell 5-11-4 ... O McPhail (5)
4 6530 BORDER TRADER 2 J S Moore 4-11-2 ... F Kenny (7)
5 P486 SUMMER FLOWER 21 (D,G) Miss Davison 9-11-0 ... Mr A Irvine (7)
6 0P3R KEEN BID 32 (B) Mrs L Richards 8-10-11 ... W Marston
7 2554 COCHITI 217 P Hiatt 5-10-6 ... X Aizpuru (3)
8 U0P- ROYAL VOLAR 364 G Balding 7-10-5 ... B Clifford
9 4006 FIGAWIN 16 Mrs H Walton 4-10-3 ... Mr A Walton
10 P0-0 MOORLANDMERRYMAKER 59 D Gandolfo 9-10-2 ... R Massey
11 -PPP NORMANTHESTRAWMAN 40 (V) P Shakespeare 6-10-0 ... M Berry

11-4 Inclination, 7-2 Summer Flower, 6-1 Chopin, 8-1 Keen Bid, 14-1 others.

2.45 PENRHYN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,088: 2m) (8)

1 2525 GORMAN 62 Miss H Knight 7-11-10 ... D Gallagher
2 31P4 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 32 (S) R Hodges 8-11-0 ... X Aizpuru (3)
3 /P/P MONTEZUMAS REVENGE 24 (T) Miss Stokell 11-10-12 ... M Berry
4 1030 THE LADY SCORES 16 (D,S) S Dow 7-10-8 ... W Marston
5 P246 ROSSELL ISLAND 84 (BF,D,G) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-7 ... B Clifford
6 PP45 MR POPPLETON 94 (CD,F) R Brotherton 10-10-7 ... R Massey
7 04UP WHISPERING COURT 67 (D,S) A Tunnell 9-10-5 ... O McPhail (5)
8 56P4 PEVERIL PENDRAGON 25 (T,D,S) G Balding 5-10-4 ... F Kenny (7)

9-4 Rossell Island, 5-1 Gorman, The Lady Scores, 11-2 others.

3.15 PHILIP BRANGWYN MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,407: 3m 1f) (8)

1 -6P2 MERLINS DREAM 28 (CD,F,G,S) O Sherwood 10-11-11 ... D Gallagher
2 11F5 THE FULL MONTY 121 (D,F,G) S Sherwood 7-11-7 ... M Berry
3 -622 PUNTERS BAR 17 (D,G,S) P Bowen 12-11-1 ... W Marston
4 2522 KINNAHALLA 16 (D,G,S) G Balding 7-11-1 ... F Kenny (7)
5 124P WREKENGALE 11 (BF,D,F,G) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-1 ... B Clifford
6 335P TROUVAILLE 19 (F) A Tunnell 8-10-4 ... O McPhail (5)
7 00F3 GLEVUM 13 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 ... L Suthern (7)
8 P306 LITTLE ROWLEY 16 (F) Mrs Z Davison 10-10-0 ... R Massey

5-2 Kinnahalla, 4-1 Merlins Dream, 5-1 Punters Bar, Wrekengale, 6-1 others.

3.50 BEXHILL & COUNTRYWIDE DIABETIC GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,012: 3m) (12)

1 64P4 PENINSULA BOY 9 (CD,G) P Bowen 6-11-10 ... W Marston
2 3255 ROSS DANCER 174 (CD,F,S) J S Moore 7-11-9 ... L Suthern (7)
3 0630 RENARDINE BOY 41 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-5 ... B Clifford
4 20P0 RIVER BAY 12 (S) Miss H Knight 8-10-13 ... R Massey
5 440- NORTHERN STAR 334 (F) J Wormall 8-10-9 ... Miss J Wormall (7)
6 3360 WEEHEBY 75F (T,G) Miss A Stokell 10-10-9 ... Ann Stokell
7 0400 CHIEF PREDATOR 20 (G,F,S) D Williams 5-10-6 ... D Griffiths
8 3246 LITTLE SERENA 46 (F,S) Ms P Ford 9-10-5 ... O McPhail (5)
9 -346 SMOKEY ROBOT 17 (T) Miss S Edwards 6-10-4 ... —
10 5000 ARGUABLY 13 (V) G Balding 7-10-3 ... F Kenny (7)
11 6P/P TENBIT 13 (D,F) R Dickin 9-10-0 ... X Aizpuru (3)
12 -025 REDGRAVE WOLF 136 K Bishop 6-10-0 ... D Gallagher

7-2 Peninsula Boy, 4-1 Renardine Boy, 7-1 Ross Dancer, Northern Star, 8-1 Smokey Robot, 10-1 River Bay, 12-1 Weeheby, Little Serena, 14-1 others.

4.25 SCHILIZZI 1906 SIXTY YEARS COMMEMORATIVE CUP (HUNTERS CHASE) (£1,084: 2m 6f) (4)

1 2P11 AVOSTAR 12 (B,CD,G,S) Mrs C Bailey 12-12-10 ... Mr B Pollock
2 1-PU GOLD TIMES 37P (S) Nick Seal 9-12-0 ... Mr J Harry (7)
3 P1P2 JUPITER MOON 8P (F,G,S) J Cornwall 10-12-0 ... Mr J Cornwall (7)
4 6F-3 SEVERN INVADER 8P (CD,F,G,S) Miss H Gosling 14-12-0 ... Miss H Gosling (7)

4-9 Avostar, 4-1 Jupiter Moon, 8-1 Severn Invader, 10-1 Gold Times.

4.55 CLARKE-RODWAY DIAMOND JUBILEE OPEN NH FLAT (Div I: £1,525: 2m) (13)

1 10 SIMBER HILL 74 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-9 ... R Massey
2 COMMANCHE BOW I Williams 5-11-2 ... F Kenny (7)
3 0 MISTER DOON 17 Mrs S Edwards 6-11-2 ... —
4 0 PADDY CLYDE 44 (T) P R Webber 6-11-2 ... D Gallagher
5 R0 SIR ROBBO 37 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2 ... X Aizpuru (3)
6 TANTIVY BAY P Hobbs 5-11-2 ... Mr P Flynn (7)
7 4 JAN'S DREAM 42 P R Webber 5-10-11 ... Mr C R Weaver (7)
8 26 LANDSBURY LASS 9 J Neville 5-10-11 ... W Marston
9 WELDEED G I Cooper 5-10-11 ... M Berry
10 HIGH EXPECTATIONS T Tate 4-10-10 ... L Suthern (7)
11 ENGLISH CLOVER H Daly 4-10-5 ... O McPhail (5)
12 MISS CHLOE Mrs J Pitman 4-10-5 ... B Clifford
13 NO MOORE BILLS K Bishop 4-10-5 ... —

11-4 Simber Hill, 7-2 Miss Chloe, 7-1 Jan's Dream, Tantivy Bay, 8-1 others.

5.25 CLARKE-RODWAY DIAMOND JUBILEE OPEN NH FLAT (Div II: £1,515: 2m) (12)

1 ARCTIC CHALLENGE G Balding 5-11-2 ... F Kenny (7)
2 CRACKRATTLE Miss V Williams 5-11-2 ... D Gallagher
3 60 GOLDEN DEAL 12 T Etherington 6-11-2 ... D Griffiths
4 KAYGEBE P R Webber 6-11-2 ... Mr C R Weaver (7)
5 KINGFISHER BOY N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2 ... L Suthern (7)
6 ZAMBONI Mrs L Richards 5-11-2 ... W Marston
7 0-0 ARDENT ANNIE 67 J Cullinan 5-10-11 ... N Kavanagh (7)
8 FREE FLIGHT J Wharton 5-10-11 ... X Aizpuru (3)
9 0 MADAM ROSS 138 D Nicholson 6-10-11 ... O McPhail (5)
10 CIMARRONE COVE Mrs J Pitman 4-10-10 ... B Clifford
11 0 LENNOX RANGER 16 Mrs H Walton 4-10-10 ... Mr A Walton
12 05 PEMBROKE SQUARE 17 M Pipe 4-10-10 ... R Massey

2-1 Crackrattle, 4-1 Cimarrone Cove, 5-1 Kingfisher Boy, 7-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs C Bailey, 11 winners from 16 runners, 68.8%; D Nicholson, 27 from 73, 37.0%; Miss V Williams, 11 from 38, 28.9%; H Daly, 4 from 18, 22.2%; Mrs J Pitman, 10 from 46, 21.7%; P Hobbs, 6 from 28, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: B Pollock, 8 winners from 14 rides, 57.1%; R Massey, 5 from 26, [illegible]

To ensure customer service quality standards some calls may be recorded.

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The times they are a-changing. Slightly.

The new Audi A4 is somewhat different from its former self. To appreciate the subtle (but definite) improvements, please call 0345 699 777 now to arrange a test drive.

Audi — Vorsprung durch Technik

"I ONLY TALK TO MY HORSE IN A RACE IF IT'S LYING ON TOP OF ME."

A P McCOY

Tony McCoy is three times champion jump jockey and holds the record for the number of winners in a season. Each year, he knows he'll ride in around 700 races. He also knows that statistically, 1 in 10 is a faller.

BBC SPORT — In sight. In sound. In-depth.

Kevin Eason on the leading drivers lining up for the start of the British Touring Car Championship

Neal stuns rivals to capture pole

THE glory would probably be enough reward, but Matt Neal is halfway to a £250,000 prize as the first independent driver to break the stranglehold of the mega-budget manufacturer teams in the *Auto Trader* British Touring Car Championship.

Neal stunned his opposition yesterday by smashing the circuit record at Donington Park on his way to pole position for the main feature race this afternoon. To leave former champions and track stars in his wake was remarkable enough, but Neal's achievement is to beat teams with multi-million pound budgets that he can only dream of.

To add insult to injury, Neal was driving a 1998 constructors' championship-winning Nissan Primera GT, which he bought from the factory team — which would be like buying Mika Hakkinen's old McLaren-Mercedes to race and then beating him. While Neal sits on pole, neither of the factory-backed team cars, driven by David Leslie and Laurent Aiello, managed to qualify in the top ten.

"It is a fantastic moment for me and the team," the 32-year-old, who races for Team Dynamics, said. "I thought the manufacturer teams would be bringing out the heavy artillery, but, if I am going to win, then this is as good a chance as I am ever going to get and the thought of that £250,000 cheque is very nice. I just have to get away from pole and win. Sounds simple, but I am sure it will be a tough day at the races."

The success of the Midlander serves only to underline just how tight this series, acknowledged as second only to Formula One in Great Britain, could be this season. Any one of half a dozen drivers is capable of winning the championship, including Neal, whose status as a rank outsider evaporated with his tyre smoke at Donington yesterday.

"This will be the closest championship for a long time because every team has a good car and drivers who can win races," Rickard Rydell, the current champion who qualified his Volvo S40 in seventh position, said. "I want to make a little bit of history by winning two titles in a row, but it is significant that recently drivers who have won the title have not had such a good year after that."

The grid is small in quantity — just six manufacturers are represented — though high on quality for the first two rounds, an 18-lap sprint followed by the 36-lap feature race. Honda has built a new Accord that could put James Thomson, the youngest man on the grid, on his way to a maiden championship. The fresh-faced Yorkshireman, at the age of 24, has seven career victories behind him already, came third in the championship last season and put himself alongside Neal on the front row for the main race today, while taking pole, with Neal second, for the sprint.

"The basic new car is not only quicker than last year's but also has lots of development ahead of it," he said, "but the competition is so close you cannot really rule anyone out. Any of the manufacturers in the championship now are capable of winning and look at what Matt Neal has achieved, so it is difficult to predict. It is going to be down to pitstops and team effort as much as the drivers and cars.

"The main thing is that I must not get too hung up about winning. I want to win every race hopefully, but I have to be consistent and get points each time out, because that could be the way to the championship."

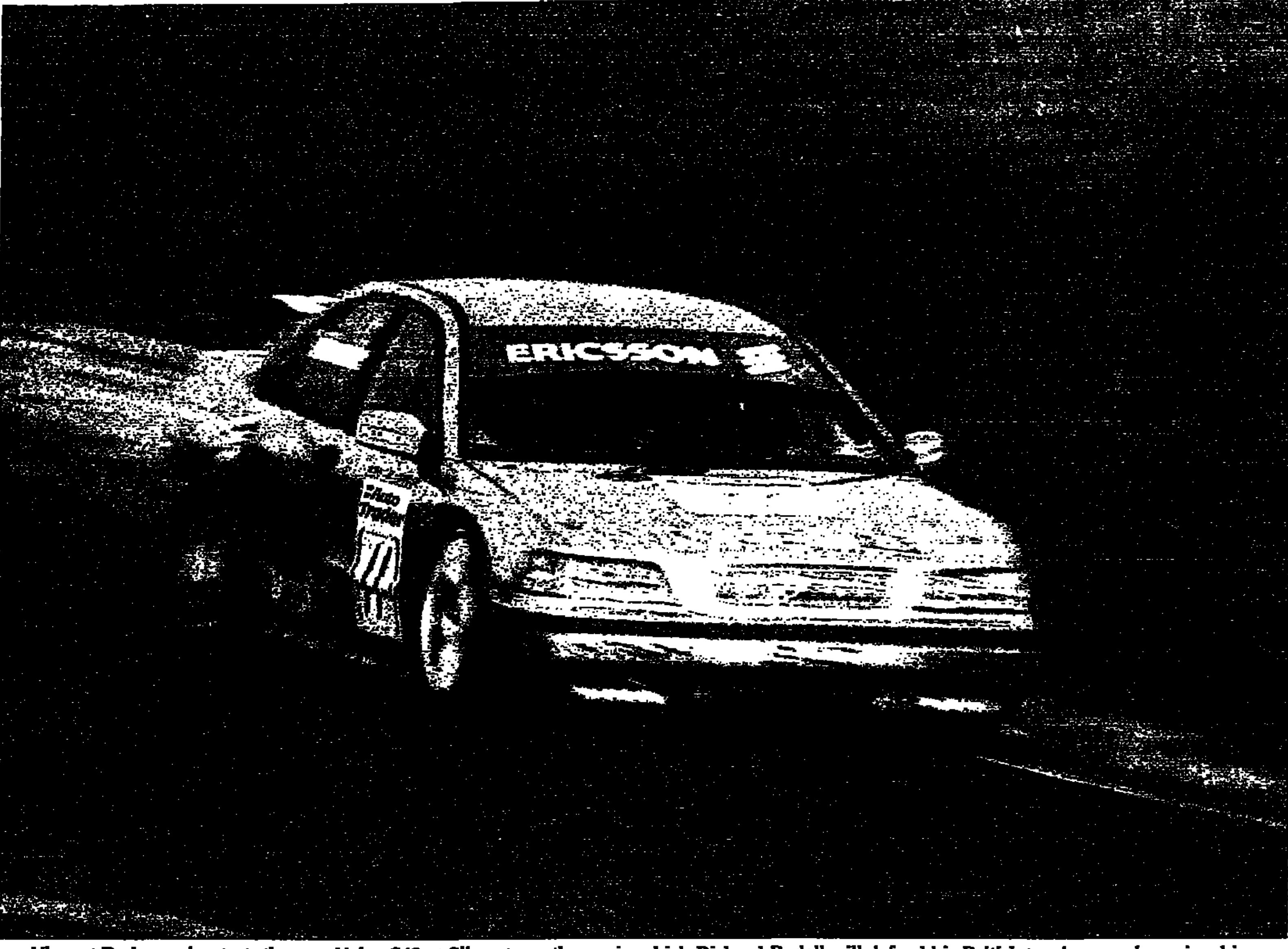
The British touring car championship has always provided spectacular wheel-to-wheel racing, no more so than at Donington last June, when Nigel Mansell almost pulled off the seemingly impossible by winning for Ford in the wet. His drive had started out as little more than a publicity coup, with Mansell being paid a reputed £500,000 by a struggling team striving to get attention in any way that it could in this ultra-competitive series.

This year, Ford has abandoned the frivolity of hiring an ex-Formula one star for a few demonstration drives and bought the best talent that it can find to transform its Mondeo into a winning car. Prodrive, which built world championship-winning rally cars for Colin McRae, is making the Mondeos, in alliance with Cosworth, the Formula One engine supplier.

Alain Ménu, the flamboyant 1997 champion, is partnered by his antithesis in the form of Anthony Reid, a quiet, introverted Scot, whose studied approach last season made him the highest-placed British driver. Ménu and Reid lurk menacingly fourth and fifth on the grid for the main race, but Reid, second to Rydell last year, is under no illusions that the new team will have to gel quickly to make an impact today.

"It might be an all-new package, but, because of the organisations involved, we have been able to respond quickly to problems. We hope we will be up at the sharp end straight away although there is still a lot of discovering to be made of the Mondeo," he said.

He agrees that predicting winners this year is fraught with difficulty. "This could the most exciting championship on record. When people reflect on how this championship was won, they might see that the driver did not win every time, but that the car was reliable and he was always among the places."



Vincent Radermecker tests the new Volvo S40 at Silverstone, the car in which Rickard Rydell will defend his British touring car championship

Touring Cars takes its reputation as a testbed for new ideas a step further this season with the first night race in Great Britain. The Snetterton circuit, outside Norwich, is being equipped with floodlights on July 17 to give spectators a unique view of the sport.

1999 DIARY

(First day qualifying, second day two races): **Today** (two races): Donington Park. **April 17/18:** Silverstone. **May 2/3:** Thruxton **May 15/16:** Brands Hatch. **May 30/31:** Oulton Park. **June 19/20:** Donington **July 3/4:** Croft. **July 16/17:** Snetterton. **July 31/August 1:** Thruxton **August 14/15:** Knockhill **August 29/30:** Brands Hatch. **September 11/12** Oulton Park. **September 18/19:** Silverstone

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.btcc.co.uk
TELEVISION:
Donington race live on BBC2 at 12pm and 3.30pm

THE CONTENDERS

Rickard Rydell (Swe
Age: 31
Team: Volvo S40.
Prospects: Tough job defending his championship, but Rydell is rated as the best touring car driver in the business. Depends entirely on how well his 1999 Volvo can perform.

Anthony Reid (GB)
Age: 39
Team: Ford Mondeo
Prospects: Last year's top British driver has all the equipment for winning and showed last season he is not afraid of confrontation. The new Mondeo is an unknown, though he is optimistic.

Laurent Aiello (Fr)
Age: 29
Team: Nissan Primera
Prospects: Must rate as a contender. The Primera was the fastest on the track at the end of last year and Aiello is highly rated. Put the two together and there could be victory ahead.

Alain Ménu (Switz)
Age: 35.
Team: Ford Mondeo
Prospects: Never rule out Ménu, the 1997 champion. Swapped to Mondeo to give Ford the strongest driver line-up and experience coupled with enormous talent could still cause a stir.

James Thompson (GB)
Age: 24
Team: Honda Accord
Prospects: Young gun of touring cars who has never quite fulfilled his potential. The Accord is still developing, like Thompson, but quite capable of producing victories and podium finishes.

Matt Neal (GB)
Age: 32
Team: Team Dynamics.
Prospects: Most intriguing of the lot. On for a £250,000 prize if he is the first independent to win a race this season — and he could, given stunning test times. Look out for a surprise.

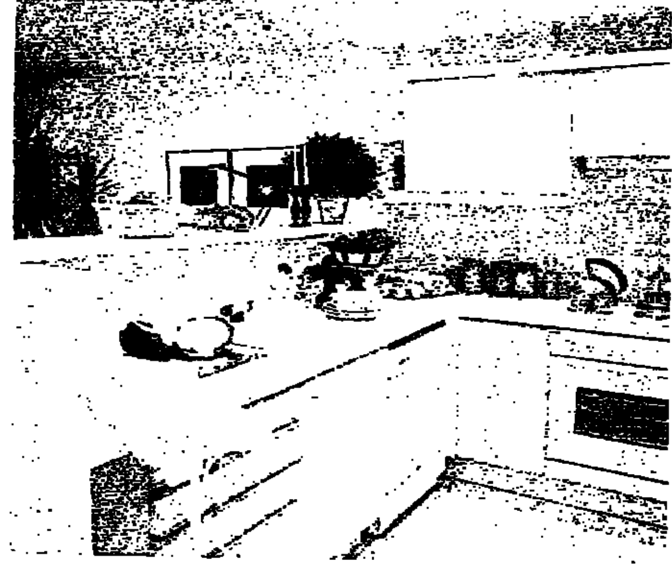
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When you go online you will be asked to use a compass to check the direction and position of the door and create the layout of your room. Describe what you can see out of each window and submit the room to an online Feng Shui expert for analysis. The analysis will highlight the negative and positive areas of your room and make recommendations for you to put your furniture and fittings in places where they will not suffer/create negative influences.

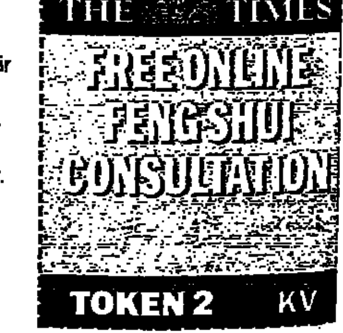


HOW TO APPLY

Collect four of the seven tokens published in *The Times* this week. Token 1 appeared in *The Times* Magazine on Saturday. On each token there is a two-letter code. You need four, two-letter codes to access the free consultation on the Feng Shui website: **www.online-fengshui.com**

When you have any four of the seven sets of two-letter codes, key them into your computer when asked and follow the instructions carefully. You will need a web browser Netscape 3 or above, Explorer 3 or above, or their equivalent. Full instructions are on the site. If you have difficulty downloading, please check you are following the instructions. If you are at work, make sure there is no firewall. Try again or contact your Internet service provider.





Terms and Conditions: Only one free room consultation per household. Consultations for other rooms are available at half price, just £5.50 per room. Instructions for how to do this will be on the website. Offer closes at midnight Wednesday April 28, 1999.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

[illegible]

BOWLS

[illegible]

BOXING

[illegible]

CYCLING

Road races

[illegible]

... 5.38.03. 2, H Reynolds-Jones (Linda McCartney Foods) at 3sec. 3, P Manning (Adidas-SoCon) at 7sec.

TOUR OF THE BORDER FOUR-DAY RACE, Northumberland: Third stage (64 miles): 1, W Wright (Prickett Atom Elite RT) 2.36.29; 2, A Jackson (Middridge CRT) at 5sec. 3, S Ward (Cycle Force) same time. Overall: 1, D Fox (Keighley Composite) 8 33 04. 2, J Muir (Lemond Cycles) at 42sec. 3, A Critchlow (Team Chevin) at 1 14.

Time trials

CHARLOTTEVILLE CC (Privett, Hampshire, 50 miles): 1, M Cox (Solonia CC) 1:51:32. 2, A Ryder (Camel Valley CC) 1:52:38. 3, N Gardiner (Mid Oxon CRT) 1:53.25. Team: Charlotteville CC 6.13.27.
RHYL CC (Denbigh, mountain 37 miles): 1, P Hodgkinson (Team Lusso) 1:33:52; 2, D Hitchen (New Brighton CC) 1:34:28; 3, S Hulme (Team Velocity) 1:34 53. Team: Wrexham RC 5:03:55.

EQUESTRIANISM

LEICESTERSHIRE: Rolleston Horse Trials (Great Britain unless stated). Advanced section one: 1, Coral Cove (P Philipps) 55; 2, Aspyring (B Tait, NZ) 57. 3, Toad Hall (B Tait, NZ) 61. Advanced section two: 1, Rainbow Magic (P Funnell) 49; 2, Gildernstein (O Moore) 51, 3, Gershwin III (M Wallis, Aus) 52. Advanced section three: 1, Becket II (C Dennis) 59; 2, Westford (P Clark) 63; 3, Tricklesam (A Johnston) 64. Advanced section four: 1, Hooray Henry II (C Ryan-Bell) 47, 2, Chesterfield (B Tait, NZ) 56. 3, Davy (P Clark) 59.

GOLF

GEORGIA: BellSouth Classic: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated). 202: S Cink 71, 65, 66; M Weir (Can) 69, 65, 68. 203: J Huston 71, 65, 67, D Duval 66, 69, 68, R Sabbatini (SA) 65, 65, 73. 204: P Mickelson 69, 71, 64, F Langham 69, 67, 68. 206: S Appleby (Aus) 74, 66, 66, S Maruyama (Japan) 66, 72, 68, P Stankowski 73, 65, 68, J Parnevik (Swe) 66, 72, 68. 207: D Love 69, 69, 69, B Fabel 68, 68, 71; G Day 68, 67, 72. Other scores: 212: J Woosnam (GB) 70, 69, 73. 213: C Montgomerie (GB) 72, 68, 73. 215: N Faldo (GB) 69, 73, 73.

LINCOLN, California: LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated). 210: J Inkster 69, 67, 74. 213: S Steinhauer 70, 74, 69. 214: W Doolan (Aus) 72, 68, 74; C Kerr 74, 70, 70. 215: C Figg-Currier 68, 72, 75; A Sorenstam (Swe) 71, 71, 73; J McGill 73, 70, 72; A J Eathorne (Can) 72, 68, 75. H Kobayashi (Japan) 68, 72, 75; M Will 72, 73, 70. 216: S Strudwick (GB) 75, 68, 73, R Hetherington (Aus) 72, 69, 75, M McKay (GB) 69, 72, 75. Other scores: 222: J Morley (GB) 73, 74, 75. 226: K Davies (GB) 78, 70, 78.

SOUTHERNDOWN: Duncan Putter: Leading final scores: 216: G Wolstenholme 74, 67, 75. 218: M King 72, 74, 72. 219: D Griffiths 71, 74, 74. 220: D Amee 77, 68, 72. 221: N Fox 74, 69, 78; T Whitehouse 73, 76, 72. 222: N Matthews 79, 69, 74; I Veale 78, 74, 70; G Storm 72, 71, 79; A Wainwright 75, 75, 72. 224: S Williams 76, 74, 74; M Smith 75, 77, 72. 225: L Harpin 76, 76, 73; I Campbell 78, 75, 72.

HOCKEY

BUENOS AIRES: Quadrangular international tournament: Argentina B 0 England 3.
KUALA LUMPUR: Sultan Azlan Shah tournament: Malaysia 1 Canada 2; Pakistan 6 South Korea 2, Germany 3 New Zealand 0. Standings: 1, Pakistan 6pts, 2, Germany 6; 3, New Zealand 3.
DEN BOSCH, Netherlands: Women's European club championship: Division A: Group A: Rot-Weiss Cologne 5 Moscow Pravda 2, Edinburgh L 3 Slavia Prague 2; Cologne 1 Edinburgh L 2; Pravda 4 Slavia 3. Final positions: 1, RW Cologne 6; 2, Edinburgh L 6; 3, Pravda 6. Group B: 'S-Hertogenbosch 6 Ritm Grodno (Bela) 0; Slough 2 Kolos Borispol (Ukr) 0; 'S-Hertogenbosch 8 Slough 3, Borispol 0 Grodno 1. Final positions: 1, S'Hertogenbosch 9, 2, Slough 6. 3, Grodno 3.
EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Men: Division A (in Amsterdam): Group A: Amsterdam 6 Minsk (Bela) 0, Pocztowiec (Pol) 4 Three Rock Rovers (Ire) 0; Amsterdam 2 Pocztowiec (Pol) 0; Minsk (Bela) 0 Three Rock Rovers (Ire) 3. Final positions: 1, Amsterdam 9; 2, Pocztowiec 6; 3, Three Rock Rovers 3. Group B: Dinamo Ekaterinburg (Russ) 1 Beeston 2, Atlético Terrassa (Sp) 3 Lille 2; Ekaterinburg (Russ) 3 Atlético 2, Beeston 2 Lille 2. Final positions: 1, Atlético 6, ...

[illegible]

ICE HOCKEY

[illegible]

RUGBY LEAGUE

[illegible]

SAILING

[illegible]

SHOOTING

[illegible]

SNOOKER

[illegible]

SWIMMING

[illegible]

... 4 S Rolph (GB) 25 01. 400m: 1, N Chernezova (Russ) 4:05.23. 2, Qian Cani (China) 4:06 34. 3, J Malar (Can) 4:06 83. Backstroke: 50m: 1, S Volker (Ger) 27 63. 2, M Nakamura (Japan) 27 73. 3, K McMillan (Aus) 28.29. Medley: 100m: 1, M Moravcova (Slovakia) 1 00 20 (European record). 2, L Munz (Aus) 1 01 40. 3, O Vorevka (Russ) 1 01 55. 4 x 100m freestyle: 1, Great Britain 3 36 88 (Commonwealth record). 2, Holland 3 39 40. 3, Australia, 3 39 82.

TENNIS

[illegible]

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: WTA Family Circle Cup: Quarter-finals: M Hingis (Switz) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-0, 7-6. J Novotna (Cz) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-4. P Schnyder (Switz) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6. A Kournikova (Russ) bt A Glass (Ger) 6-2, 2-1, ret. Semi-finals: Hingis bt Novotna 6-2, 6-3. Kournikova bt Schnyder 6-7, 6-0, 6-3.

RUGBY UNION

Tetley's Bitter Cup

Semi-finals

Richmond 3 Newcastle 20
Richmond: Pen: Vara. Newcastle: Tries: Tuigamala 2. Cons: Andrew, Wilkinson. Pen: Andrew. Dropped goal: Andrew. HT: 0-10. Att: 9,751.

Wasps 35 Gloucester 21
Wasps: Tries: Henderson, Logan, Sampson, Volley. Cons: Logan 3. Pens: Logan 3. Gloucester: Pens: Mapletoft 6. Dropped goal: Sanders. HT: 16-12. Att: 10,064.

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bath 24 Leicester 16
Bath: Tries: Balshaw, penalty try. Con: Catt. Pens: Catt 4. Leicester: Try: Penalty try. Con: Howard. Pens: Stimpson 3. HT: 9-6. Att: 8,200.

Sale 30 London Irish 27
Sale: Tries: Ellis, Greening, Howarth. Cons: Howarth 3. Pens: Howarth 2. Dropped goal: Howarth. London Irish: Tries: Gallagher, Harvey, O'Shea. Cons: Cunningham 3. Pens: Cunningham 2. HT: 20-24. Att: 3,315.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	22	18	0	4	612	339	36
Northampton	20	14	0	6	542	418	28
Bath	21	13	0	8	514	433	26
London Irish	23	13	0	10	599	538	26
Saracens	20	12	1	7	583	445	25
Wasps	20	11	1	8	547	382	23
Newcastle	20	11	0	9	529	492	22
Harlequins	19	10	1	8	479	481	21
* Richmond	19	9	2	8	499	506	18
Gloucester	22	8	1	13	462	513	17
Sale	23	8	1	14	540	639	17
London Scot	22	7	0	15	417	555	14
Bedford	21	5	0	16	422	627	10
W Hartlepool	20	3	1	16	354	731	7

* Richmond deducted 2pts

Second division

Blackheath 22 Leeds 37
Blackheath: Tries: Aitken, Booth, Clarke. Cons: Aitken, Amor. Pen: Aitken. Leeds: Tries: S Easterby, Fourie, James, Middleton, H O'Hare, Scales. Cons: Tupulotu 2. Pen: Tupulotu. HT: 5-13.

Bristol 49 Rugby 13
Bristol: Tries: Nabaro 3, Baber 2, Al Charron, Gabey, Hull. Cons: Hull 3. Pen: Hull. Rugby: Try: Bale. Con: M Davies. Pens: M Davies 2. HT: 22-3. Att: 2,615.

Coventry 20 Exeter 13
Coventry: Tries: Crofts, Curtis. Cons: Gough 2. Pens: Gough 2. Exeter: Tries: Rose, Willis. Pen: B Easson. HT: 14-8.

Moseley 18 Worcester 16
Moseley: Tries: Brading, Martin. Con: A Binns. Pens: A Binns 2. Worcester: Try: Goodwin. Con: J Liley. Pens: J Liley 3. HT: 10-6.

Orrell 18 London Welsh 15
Orrell: Tries: Johnson, Lacey. Con: Verbickas. Pens: Verbickas 2. London Welsh: Tries: Luna, Rowland Philips, T Shanklin. HT: 7-15. Att: 750.

Rotherham 43 Fylde 16
Rotherham: Tries: Lax, Parr, Schmid, Shepherd, Sinclair, Wade, West. Cons: Niarchos 4. Fylde: Try: O'Toole. Con: Loxton. Pens: Loxton 3. HT: 28-10.

Wakefield 14 Waterloo 20
Wakefield: Try: Breheny. Pens: Ashforth 3. Waterloo: Tries: Holt, Stewart. Cons: L Griffiths 2. Pens: L Griffiths 2. HT: 8-13. Att: 500.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	22	18	0	4	704	338	36
Rotherham	22	18	0	4	615	282	36
* Worcester	22	17	0	5	594	308	32
Leeds	22	13	0	9	531	301	26
London Welsh	22	13	0	9	513	490	26
Exeter	22	12	1	9	467	469	25
Waterloo	22	12	0	10	364	462	24
Coventry	22	11	0	11	532	476	22
Orrell	22	9	0	13	406	379	18
Moseley	22	9	0	13	440	489	18
Rugby	22	9	0	13	343	479	18
Wakefield	22	5	0	17	386	634	10
Fylde	22	4	1	17	281	686	9
Blackheath	22	3	0	19	301	684	6

* Worcester deducted 2pts

LEADING SCORERS: 255: S Gough (Coventry: 9 tries, 39 conversions, 44 penalty goals). 218: S Tupulotu (Leeds; 3t, 28c, 49pg). 197: B Easson (Exeter; 1t, 30c, 44pg). 181: L Griffiths (Waterloo; 2t, 21c, 43pg). 153: M Davies (Rugby: 2t, 19c, 35pg). 141: R Le Bas (Worcester; 4t, 23c, 25pg). 138: J Liley (Worcester; 1t, 11c, 37pg). 137: P Hull (Bristol; 4t, 30c, 19pg). 136: S Verbickas (Orrell; 4t, 16c, 28pg). Tries: 15: B Wade (Rotherham). 13: A Currier (London Welsh), D Lax (Rotherham). 12: A Larkin (Bristol).

Jewson National League

First division

Camberley 14 Harrogate 24
Camberley: Try: Slater. Pens: G Gregory 3. Harrogate: Tries: Farrar 2, McClaren. Cons: Cholewa 2, McClaren. Pen: Cholewa. HT: 3-10.

Henley 39 Liverpool St H 8
Henley: Tries: Ayres, Davies, R Osman, Roke, J Sampson, Sharp, M Venner. Cons: Roke 2. Liverpool St H: Try: Wood. Pen: Worsley. HT: 12-8. Att: 550.

Lydney 6 Rosslyn Park 6
Lydney: Pens: Osborne 2. Rosslyn Park: Pens: T Knowles 2. HT: 3-3.

Manchester 26 Newbury 31
Manchester: Tries: Swindells, Williams. Cons: Swindells 2. Pens: Swindells 4. Newbury: Tries: Blake 2, Curtis, Howe, Hyde. Cons: Graham 3. HT: 20-12.

Morley 25 B'ham/Solihull 10
Morley: Tries: Naivalura, A Sales, Tiffen. Cons: Bamber 2. Pens: Bamber 2. B'ham/Solihull: Try: Allen. Con: M Birch. Pen: M Birch. HT: 17-3.

Nottingham 39 Wharfedale 7
Nottingham: Tries: Freer 2, Bradley, Delaney, Lloyd. Con: C Atkinson. Pens: C Atkinson 4. Wharfedale: Try: Mounsey. Con: Pears. HT: 20-7.

Otley 66 Reading 10
Otley: Tries: Filipo 4, Brown 2, Williams 2, Gardner, Griffin. Cons: D Clappison 8. Reading: Try: Rowland. Con: G Costeloe. Dropped goal: Lewis. HT: 26-10.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Henley	25	21	1	3	622	291	43
Manchester	25	20	0	5	728	342	40
Rosslyn Park	25	16	1	8	546	352	33
Otley	25	15	1	9	488	377	31
Nottingham	25	15	0	10	569	450	30
Newbury	25	13	1	11	513	456	27
Wharfedale	25	13	0	12	447	391	26
Lydney	25	10	2	13	401	451	22
Reading	25	10	0	15	437	598	20
Camberley	25	9	1	15	479	644	19
B'ham/Solihull	25	9	0	16	414	501	18
Harrogate	25	8	2	15	292	440	18
Morley	25	7	1	17	449	601	15
Liverpool St H	25	4	0	21	318	809	8

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: Aspatria 20 Sheffield 22; New Brighton 44 Whitchurch 27, Preston Grasshoppers 57 Hinckley 11, Stourbridge 18 Kendal 15; Walsall 24 Sedgley Park 10; Winnington Park 6 Sandal 53. Postponed: Nuneaton v Lichfield. Second division south: Barking 56 Redruth 20; Bridgwater 48 Met Police 17; Cheltenham 15 Havant 12; Clifton 39 Tabard 20, Esher 33 Norwich 0, North Walsham 43 Weston-super-Mare 17, Plymouth 12 Bracknell 64.

Welsh League

Premier division

Caerphilly 13 Ebbw Vale 24
Caerphilly: Try: Wintle. Con: Davey. Pens: Davey 2. Ebbw Vale: Tries: Harries, Llewellyn. Con: Strange. Pens: Strange 3. Dropped goal: Strange. HT: 10-6.

Llanelli 83 Aberavon 10
Llanelli: Tries: Proctor 3, Finau 2, I Boobyer, Booth, J Davies, Hodges, Jenkins, M Thomas, Voyle, Warlow. Cons: S Jones 6, Hayward 3. Aberavon: Try: C Rees. Con: C Rees. Pen: C Rees. HT: 21-10.

Neath 53 Pontypridd 31
Neath: Tries: 2 penalty tries, Colderley, G Evans, Gerrard, S Williams. Cons: M Pearce 4. Pens: M Pearce 4. Dropped goal: M Pearce. Pontypridd: Tries: Alan Griffiths, Paul John, Geraint Lewis, Morgan, Williams. Cons: Wyatt 3. HT: 23-24.

Newport 33 Bridgend 0
Newport: Tries: Gray, Popham, D Smith, Snow, M Watkins. Cons: Mitchell 4. HT: 5-0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Llanelli	14	11	0	3	566	238	77	14	47
Pontypridd	13	10	0	3	499	257	65	9	39
Ebbw Vale	13	10	0	3	384	268	41	5	35
Neath	14	8	0	6	412	325	51	8	32
Caerphilly	13	6	1	6	299	391	33	1	20
Newport	14	4	0	10	319	416	40	6	18
Bridgend	13	3	1	9	240	405	27	2	12
Aberavon	14	1	0	13	234	635	30	2	5

First division

Abertillery 24 Llandovery 19
Abertillery: Tries: Miles, penalty try, D Williams, Wright. Cons: Withers 2. Llandovery: Try: M Morgan. Con: Hancox. Pens: Hancox 4. HT: 10-9.

Bonymaen 23 UWIC 3
Bonymaen: Tries: Batsford, Dan Hawkins, David Hawkins. Con: G Jones. Pens: G Jones 2. UWIC: Pen: Welsh. HT: 8-3.

Dunvant 26 Tredegar 13
Dunvant: Tries: Hawkins, Kifa, Manasalava, Rees. Cons: Daniel 3. Tredegar: Try: C Thomas. Con: M Jones. Pens: M Jones 2. HT: 7-7.

Maesteg 10 Blackwood 27
Maesteg: Try: M Morgan. Con: R Davies. Pen: R Davies. Blackwood: Tries: Veater 2, D Thomas, Wilkshire. Cons: Brown 2. Pen: Brown. HT: 3-17.

Merthyr 41 S Wales Police 20
Merthyr: Tries: Barwood, M Davies, J Lloyd, Morgan, Sidoli, R Williams. Cons: Bryant 3, J Lloyd. Pen: Bryant. S Wales Police: Tries: Apsee, Gronow, penalty try. Con: Sparrow. Dropped goal: S Pritchard. HT: 12-3.

Newbridge 24 Cross Keys 10
Newbridge: Tries: Lucas, Penyment, M Smith. Cons: Williams 3. Pen: Williams. Cross Keys: Try: Nicholls. Con: Cooper. Pen: Cooper. HT: 14-10.

Tondu 34 Rumney 12
Tondu: Tries: Armstrong, K Hocking, Howells, Thomas, Welsh. Cons: Welsh 2, Howells. Pen: Welsh. Rumney: Tries: P Bowcott 2. Con: Davies. HT: 19-0.

Treorchy 17 Pontypool 20
Treorchy: Tries: Morris, Owen. Cons: Langmead 2. Pen: Langmead. Pontypool: Tries: Jenkins, Silva, M Vunipola. Con: Silva. Dropped goal: Silva. HT: 17-5.

SECOND DIVISION: Llantrisant 20 Mountain Ash 22; Oakdale 41 Narberth 17; Rhymney 20 Llanharan 12; St Peter's 16 Abercynon 19; Tenby Utd 86 Pyle 5; Wrexham 29 Kenfig Hill 24; Ystradgynlais 25 Whitland 12.

Anglo-Welsh club matches

Swansea 12 London Scot 27
Swansea: Tries: S Davies, penalty try. Con: Back. London Scot: Pens: De Beer 7. Dropped goals: De Beer, McAusland. HT: 5-12.

W Hartlepool 26 Cardiff 50
W Hartlepool: Tries: Benson, Farrell, Webb. Con: Benson. Pens: Benson 3. Cardiff: Tries: Morgan 3, Botham, Jarvis, R Jones. Cons: Botham 2, Jarvis 2. Pens: Jarvis 4. HT: 16-14. Att: 800.

Tennent's Velvet Cup

Semi-finals

Boroughmuir 15 Kelso 40
Boroughmuir: Tries: Cadzow, C Howarth. Con: C Howarth. Pen: C Howarth. Kelso: Tries: K Alberts 3, Ross, Rutherford. Cons: Aitcheson 3. Pens: Aitcheson 2. Dropped goal: Aitcheson. HT: 3-22. Att: 1,500.

Gala 28 Melrose 22
Gala: Tries: Parker, C Townsend. Pens: Parker 6. Melrose: Tries: M Brown, McGarva, Morris. Cons: McGarva 2. Pen: McGarva. HT: 20-8.

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Currie 10 W of Scotland 29
Currie: Tries: Reed, Snedden. West of Scotland: Tries: McInroy 2, Curtis, McLeod. Cons: Curtis 3. Pen: Curtis. HT: 5-8.

Watsonians 36 Hawick 0
Watsonians: Tries: Dickson, S Hastings, Rayburn, J Weston. Cons: Aitchison 2. Pens: Aitchison 3. Dropped goal: Aitchison. HT: 25-0.

THIRD DIVISION: East Kilbride 38 Stewart's Mel FP 17.

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Cork Constitution 21 Ballymena 12. Second division: Derry 46 Dolphin 9; Dungannon 24 Bective Rangers 29; Old Belvedere 37 UCC 29, Old Crescent 17 Greystones 20; Skerries 22 Ballynahinch 6; Wanderers 26 Portadown 12.

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Bourgoin 12 Toulouse 12; Agen 13 Biarritz 9. Pool two: Colomiers 30 Stade Français 22; Narbonne 39 Pau 5. Pool three: Castres 30 Perpignan 23, Dax 9 Bègles-Bordeaux 20. Pool four: Montferrand 48 Grenoble 23; Toulon 25 Brive 22.

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Saturday: New South Wales 20 Auckland 21; Waikato 16 Otago 27; Coastal Sharks 18 Wellington 34; Western Stormers 35 Queensland 14, Golden Cats 57 Northern Bulls 24.

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING MATCH: First round, second leg: South Korea 78 The Netherlands 14 (in Seoul; South Korea win 108-45 on agg).

IRB-FIRA WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Georgia 15 Poland 23; Japan 24 Ukraine 0, Chile 0 Scotland 45, Italy 8 Argentina 34; Canada 16 France 46, Romania 16 England 27; Ireland 30 South Africa 27; New Zealand 25 Wales 0. Second division: Portugal 10 Czech Republic 6; Ukraine 14 Paraguay 10; Russia 13 Spain 19; Belgium 13 Germany 23. Third division: Taiwan 17 The Netherlands 12, Croatia 19 Brazil 19; Ivory Coast 6 Morocco 9; Luxembourg 8 Andorra 21.

Julius Ruto, the Kenya distance runner, celebrates crossing the line in the Paris marathon yesterday. His winning time of 2hr 8min 10sec set a new record for the event

CRICKET

One-day internationals

Pakistan A v England

LAHORE (Pakistan A won toss): England beat Pakistan A by four wickets

PAKISTAN A

Naved Ashraf c Fairbrother b Gough	6
Wajahatullah Wasti c Croft b Ealham	24
Taufeeq Omar c Knight b Ealham	19
Akhtar Sarfraz c Fairbrother b Flintoff	63
Hasan Raza c Hollioake b Croft	42
† Humayun Farhat c Hollioake b Flintoff	6
Sajid Shah not out	26
Mushtaq Ahmed c Croft b Hick	8
*Waqar Younis b Flintoff	8
Kabir Khan b Gough	2
Shabbir Ahmed b Gough	1
Extras (lb 5, w 5, nb 4)	14
Total (50 overs)	**219**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-41, 3-71, 4-156, 5-168, 6-173, 7-188, 8-206, 9-217.
BOWLING: Gough 10-1-41-3; Mullally 7-0-31-0; Ealham 10-0-23-2, Croft 10-0-53-1, Flintoff 7-1-19-3; Hollioake 4-0-27-0; Hick 2-0-20-1.

ENGLAND

N V Knight st Humayun b Mushtaq	51
*† A J Stewart c Waqar b Kabir	8
G A Hick c Humayun b Kabir	5
G P Thorpe not out	92
N H Fairbrother c Waqar b Akhtar	14
A Flintoff b Waqar	6
A J Hollioake c Humayun b Kabir	10
M A Ealham not out	12
Extras (lb 7, w 11, nb 4)	22
Total (6 wkts, 47.4 overs)	**220**

R D B Croft, D Gough and A D Mullally did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-22, 3-117, 4-140, 5-151, 6-181.
BOWLING: Waqar Younis 8-1-42-1; Kabir Khan 10-0-34-3; Shabbir Ahmed 7-0-39-0; Sajid Shah 10-1-28-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 10-0-53-1; Akhtar Sarfraz 1-0-4-1; Wajahatullah Wasti 1.4-0-13-0.
Umpires: Siddiq Khan and Aleem Dar.

LAHORE (England won toss): England beat Pakistan A by 119 runs (D/L method)

ENGLAND

N V Knight c Akhtar b Mohammed H	92
*† A J Stewart c Saeed b Mushtaq	73
V J Wells c and b Sajid	51
G A Hick c Hasan b Mohammed H	9
G P Thorpe not out	35
N H Fairbrother not out	10
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 13, nb 3)	21
Total (4 wkts, 50 overs)	**291**

A J Hollioake, M A Ealham, I D Austin, A R C Fraser and A D Mullally did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-161, 2-198, 3-221, 4-281.
BOWLING: Waqar Younis 10-0-47-0; Sajid Shah 9-1-52-1; Shabbir Ahmed 10-0-68-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 10-0-56-1; Mohammed Hussain 10-1-49-2; Saeed Anwar Jr 1-0-14-0.

PAKISTAN A

Mohammed Naveed c Fairbrother b Austin	34
Saeed Anwar Jr b Fraser	10
Akhtar Sarfraz c Austin b Hick	14
Hasan Raza c Hick b Fraser	7
Faisal Iqbal not out	26
Mohammed Hussain st Stewart b Hick	12
Sajid Shah c Stewart b Hick	8
*Waqar Younis b Ealham	5
† Kamran Akmal c Wells b Ealham	0
Mushtaq Ahmed c Austin b Hick	1
Shabbir Ahmed b Hick	0
Extras (lb 6, w 3, nb 5)	14
Total (35 overs)	**121**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-44, 3-57, 4-73, 5-93, 6-112, 7-120, 8-120, 9-121.
BOWLING: Mullally 5-0-17-0; Fraser 9-2-32-2; Austin 5-0-19-1; Hollioake 7-0-27-0; Hick 8-1-19-5, Ealham 1-0-1-2.
Umpires: Siddiq Khan and Aleem Dar.

Pepsi Cup final

Pakistan v India

BANGALORE (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat India by 123 runs

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar lbw b Prasad	13
Shahid Afridi c Jadeja b Ganguly	65
Ijaz Ahmed b Srinath	3
Inzamam-ul-Haq run out	91
Yousuf Youhana c Kumble b Ganguly	16
† Moin Khan c Mongia b Prasad	35
Azhar Mahmood c Srinath b Agarkar	25
*Wasim Akram not out	21
Saqlain Mushtaq run out	1
Arshad Khan not out	6
Extras (lb 5, w 5, nb 5)	15
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	**291**

Shoaib Akhtar did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-28, 3-122, 4-154, 5-217, 6-247, 7-273, 8-275.
BOWLING: Prasad 10-1-37-2; Srinath 10-0-65-1; Agarkar 10-1-63-1; Kumble 10-0-56-0; Singh 3-0-30-0; Ganguly 7-0-35-2.

INDIA

S C Ganguly c Moin b Wasim	13
S Ramesh c Moin b Shoaib	1
R Dravid lbw b Azhar	25
A R Khurasia lbw b Shoaib	3
*A Jadeja c Moin b Azhar	41
R R Singh c Moin b Azhar	5
A B Agarkar run out	13
† N R Mongia not out	27
A Kumble b Azhar	1
J Srinath lbw b Azhar	0
B K V Prasad b Saqlain	17
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 9, nb 8)	22
Total (42.1 overs)	**168**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-41, 3-44, 4-56, 5-63, 6-104, 7-131, 8-135, 9-135.
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 6-0-37-1, Shoaib Akhtar 8-3-22-2; Azhar Mahmood 10-1-38-5, Saqlain Mushtaq 9.1-2-29-1, Arshad Khan 6-0-23-0, Shahid Afridi 3-0-14-0.
Umpires: S Venkataraghavan and K Parthasarathy.

ATHLETICS

Road running

PARIS MARATHON: Men: 1, J Ruto (Ken) 2hr 8min 10sec; 2, P Kipsambu (Ken) 2:08.25; 3, M Kalombo (DRC) 2:08.40; 4, F Kiprop (Ken) 2:08.44; 5, E Lagat (Ken) 2:08.50. Women: 1, C Costea (Rom) 2:26.10; 2, I Timofeyeva (Russ) 2:27 46; 3, M Yamauchi (Japan) 2:28.52; 4, A Tecuta (Rom) 2:30.14, 5, S Staicu (Rom) 2:30.56.

NEWPORT, GWENT: Newport 10 miles: 1, D Rixon (Bridgend) 49min 57sec, 2, S Tobin (Swansea) 50.38; 3, P Cook (Barry & Vale) 50:41. Team: 1, Neath; 2, San Domenico; 3, Les Croupiers. Veterans: 1, H Day (Pontypridd Rodents) 54:58; 2, K Wilkinson (San Domenico) 55:47; 3, B Johnston (Les Croupiers) 56:00. Over-50: J Pointon (Pontypridd Rodents) 55.56. Veterans team: San Domenico. Over-60: H Clayton (Midland Vets) 59:33. Women: 1, D Cheverton (Newport) 1:00:34; 2, S Bretherick (Presell) 1:01:41, 3, G Edwards (Les Croupiers) 1:06:07. Teams: 1, Les Croupiers.

STOCKLEY PARK, Hayes: Puma TVH road relays: Men (5 x 3.7 miles): 1, Aldershot, Farnham and District 1hr 31min 41sec, 2, Hounslow 1:33:25; 3, Harrow 1:34:04, 4, Puma TVH 1:35:31; 5, West 4 Harriers 1:37:01; 6, Nene Valley Harriers 1:37 16. Fastest laps: 1, B Whitby (Hounslow) 17:00; 2, M Farah (Hounslow) 17.13. 3, R Flint (Aldershot, Farnham 7 District) 17:17. Veterans (3 x 3 7 miles): 1, Nene Valley Harriers 56.28, 2, Harrow 57:43; 3, Aldershot, Farnham and District 58.07. Fastest lap: S Kerr (London Irish) 18:39. Women (3 x 3.7 miles): 1, Hounslow 1 02:27, 2, Puma TVH 1:05 18; 3, Shaftesbury Barnet (holders) 1:06:01. Fastest laps: 1, J Lodge (Hounslow) 20:11; 2, S Simmons (Houslow) 20.14, 3, M Sharp (Puma TVH) and A Ridley (Shaftesbury Barnet) 20:29.

REDCAR: Sydales 10km: 1, T Wall (Morpeth) 30min 40sec (course record), 2, J Laws (Sunderland) 32.11, 3, A Henderson (Morpeth) 32:20. Team: New Marske 77pts. Veteran: A Livingston (New Marske) 34:07. Over-50: N Scrutton (Scarborough) 36:15. Over-60: I Barnes (Darlington) 39:55. Women: 1, K Matthew (Middlesbrough and Cleveland) 35:59 (course record); 2, R Winyward (Durham City) 39:49; 3, R Adams (Elvet Striders) 41:55.

FOLKESTONE: Cliff Temple 10 miles: 1, B Royden (Medway) 51min 19sec; 2, C Lawrence (unattached) 53:05. 3, J Creene (London Irish) 53:15. Team: Medway. Veteran: M Trowbridge (dartford) 56:12. Over-50: M Rouse (Invicta East Kent) 57:12. Over-60: E Campbell (Pitsea Road Runners) 1:07.17. Women: 1, S Eastell (St Edmunds Pacers) 1:02:20; 2, J Fraser (Invicta East Kent) 1:03:52; 3, S Martin-Clarke (Dartford) 1:05:48. Veteran: A Dyett (Dartford) 1:15:18.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: Elswick road relays: Men (4 x 2 1 miles): 1, Morpeth 42min 42sec, 2, Morpeth B 42.59, 3, Chester-le-Street 43 06. Fastest lap: 1, M Hudspith (Morpeth) 10:00; 2, I Hudspith (Morpeth) 10:06; 3, B Rushworth (Sunderland) 10:20. Veterans: 1, Wallsend 44.11 (course record); 2, Sunderland 46:56; 3, Elswick 46:59. Fastest lap: P Saint (Wallsend) 10:44. Women (2.1 miles): 1, D Henaghan (Morpeth) 11:45; 2, J Boltz (Blaydon) 12:25, 3, S Rutherford (Darlington) 12:33. Teams: 1, Darlington 28pts; 2, Chester-le-Street 34; 3, Elswick 35.

MAIDENHEAD: Holiday Inn Easter 10 miles: 1, A Hawkins (Bristol) 51min 38sec; 2, K Corpes (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 52:01; 3, D Hurdwell (Bournemouth) 52:07. Teams: 1, Ranelagh 46pts; 2, Chiltern Harriers 96, 3, Maidenhead 111. Veteran: W Grиswood (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 52:39. Over-50: J Exley (Oxford City) 54:24. Over-60: R Gould (Wessex Road Runners) 1:04:15. Women: 1, J Craft (Headington Road Runners) 59:24, 2, L Whiley (Reading Road Runners) 1:01:13; 3, Z Hannam (Bracknell Forest) 1:01:36. Team: Reading Road Runners 578.

Fell running

HORWICH, Lancashire: Walsh Rivington Pike race (3.25M, 700ft): Men: 1, N Wilkinson (Salford) 17min 15sec, 2, C Roberts (Kendal) 17:32; 3, J Taylor (Bingley) 17.44; 4, R Hope (Pudsey and Bramley) 17:48; 5, S Oldfield (Bradford Airedale, M40) 17:54; 6, M Cayton (Horwich, U20) 18:08, 7, R Jackson (Salford) 18:13; 8, S Williams (Salford, M40) 18:18; 9, S Culshaw (Horwich) 18:36; 10, N Leigh (Altricham) 18:39. Over-45: A Steele (Radcliffe) 20:51. Over-50: T Hesketh (Horwich) 18:59. Over-55: K Burgess (Altrincham) 22:49. Over-60: T Orrell (Clayton-le-Moors) 23:57. Over-65: B Rodgers (Northam Vets AC) 26:30. Over-70: A Robinson (Horwich) 28:02. Team: 1, Salford 18pts; 2, Horwich 28; 3, Bolton 71. Women: 1, J Clark (Pudsey and Bramley) 20:42; 2, K Drake (Spenborough, W35) 21:34; 3, J Shotter (Pudsey and Bramley, W35) 22:32; 4, J Burtherm (Warrington, W35) 22.45; 5, H Sandlands (Newburgh) 23:51; 6, P Oldfield (Bradford Airedale, W40) 23:59. Team: Chorley Harriers 44.

Track and field

ENFIELD: Data Connection Open: Men: 150m: T Akpojotor (Enfield and Haringey) 16.8sec. 300m: A Stephis (Enfield and Haringey) 35.9. 600m: A Tanner (Enfield and Haringey) 1:24 3. 1,000m: S Carrington (Enfield and Haringey) 2:49.1. 3,000m: S Read (Enfield and Haringey) 9:00 2. 300m hurdles: J Hopkins (Enfield and Haringey) 39.3. Women: 150m: C Manning (Woodford Green and Essex Ladies) 19.8. 300m: L Hopkins (Enfield and Haringey) 19.8. 600m: R O'Sullivan (Havering Mayesbrook) 1:46 4. 1,000m: L Rowe (Enfield and Haringey) 3:01.7. 300m hurdles: D Kenney (Woodford Green and Essex Ladies) 47.8.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: Birmingham Bullets 82 Greater London Leopards 74; Derby Storm 85 Leicester Riders 87; Thames Valley Tigers 112 Chester Jets 100; Worthing Bears 88 Newcastle Eagles 100. Yesterday: Greater London Leopards 98 London Towers 88.

	P	W	L	Pts
Sheffield Sharks	36	31	5	62
Manchester Giants	36	30	6	60
Thames Valley Tigers	36	24	12	48
London Towers	36	22	14	44
Newcastle Eagles	36	21	15	42
Derby Storm	36	21	15	42
Birmingham Bullets	36	21	15	42
Greater London	36	19	17	38
Edinburgh Rocks	36	12	24	24
Milton Keynes Lions	36	10	26	20
Chester Jets	36	10	26	20
Leicester Riders	36	9	27	18
Worthing Bears	36	4	32	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBL): Men: Second division: Portsmouth 69 Northampton 83. Women: First division: Birmingham 54 Northampton 60.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY: Final: Chelmsford 39 Wandsworth 60.
JUNIOR MEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Final: Birmingham 66 Ealing 61.
CADET MEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Final: London T 64 Northampton 54.
JUNIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Final: Sheffield H 72 Ware 21.
CADET WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Final: Ware 43 Stockport 68.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Boston 83 Milwaukee 84; Philadelphia 80 Cleveland 85; Atlanta 84 Vancouver 81, Indiana 87 Charlotte 81; Minnesota 107 Denver 88; Los Angeles Lakers 91 Phoenix 90; Orlando 115 Chicago 68, Utah 92 Golden State 85, Portland 107 Seattle 95. Saturday: New Jersey 88 Miami 77; Toronto 87 Washington 85, Detroit 77 Orlando 92; Minnesota 105 Sacramento 96; San Antonio 103 Los Angeles Clippers 82; Golden State 81 Los Angeles Lakers 76, Portland 98 Phoenix 93.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	24	10	.706	—
Miami	19	11	.633	3
New York	18	14	.563	5
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	6½
Washington	13	18	.419	9½
Boston	10	20	.333	12
New Jersey	7	24	.226	15½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	21	11	.656	—
Milwaukee	19	12	.613	1½
Detroit	20	13	.606	1½
Atlanta	20	13	.606	1½
Toronto	17	14	.548	3½
Cleveland	15	15	.500	5
Charlotte	12	18	.400	8
Chicago	9	23	.281	12

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	23	8	.742	—
Houston	22	10	.688	1½
San Antonio	22	10	.688	1½
Minnesota	19	13	.594	4½
Dallas	11	22	.333	13
Denver	9	24	.273	15
Vancouver	6	26	.188	17½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	26	6	.813	—
LA Lakers	22	12	.647	5
Seattle	15	16	.484	10½
Phoenix	15	18	.455	11½
Golden State	14	18	.438	12
Sacramento	14	19	.424	12½
LA Clippers	3	28	.097	22½

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
(2) Coventry v Southampton
(3) Everton v Sheff Wednesday
(4) Middlesbrough v Wimbledon
(5) Newcastle v Tottenham (7.45)
(6) Nottingham F v Liverpool
(7) West Ham v Charlton

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION
(8) Birmingham v Watford
(9) * Bolton v Stockport
(10) Bury v Bradford
(11) C Palace v Sunderland
(12) Grimsby v Norwich (12 15)
(13) Huddersfield v Swindon
(14) Ipswich v QPR
(15) Port Vale v Barnsley
(16) Portsmouth v Bristol City
(17) Sheff U v Wolverhampton
(18) Tranmere v Oxford Utd
(19) West Bromwich v Crewe

SECOND DIVISION
(20) Bristol R v Northampton
(21) Burnley v Colchester
(22) Chesterfield v Stoke
(23) Lincoln v Notts County
(24) Millwall v Blackpool
(25) *Preston v Man City (12.0)
(26) Reading v Fulham
(27) Wigan v Oldham
(28) Wycombe v Gillingham

THIRD DIVISION
(29) Brentford v Plymouth
(30) *Cardiff v Hull
(31) Chester v Barnet
(32) Exeter v Leyton Orient
(33) Halifax v Rochdale (1.0)
(34) Peterborough v Darlington
(35) Rotherham v Swansea
(36) Scarborough v Carlisle
(37) Southend v Scunthorpe (7 45)
(38) Torquay v Mansfield

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE
(39) Cheltenham v Kidderminster
(40) Doncaster v Hednesford
(41) Farnborough v Yeovil
(42) Hereford v Forest Green
(43) Kettering v Stevenage
(44) Kingstonian v Dover
(45) Northwich v Barrow
(46) Southport v Morecambe
(47) Telford v Leek
(48) Welling v Hayes
(49) Woking v Rushden & D

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

THIRD DIVISION
(—) Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath City v Dorchester; Bromsgrove v Halesowen (7.45), Burton Albion v Ilkeston (7.30); Cambridge City v Crawley, Gloucester v Worcester City (7 30). Grantham v Boston, Hastings v Salisbury, King's Lynn v Rothwell, Nuneaton v Gresley (7 45), Tamworth v Atherstone (7.30), Weymouth v Merthyr. Southern division: Andover v Fleet T, Ashford v St Leonards, Brackley Town v Corby, Cirencester Town v Witney, Erith and Belvedere v Dartford, Fisher London v Chelmsford; Havant and Waterlooville v Bashley; Margate v Folkestone Invicta, Newport IoW v Yate, Raunds T v Baldock, Tonbridge Angels v Sittingbourne. Midland division: Blakenall v Bilston, Cinderford v Clevedon, Evesham v Moor Green, Hinckley Utd v Wisbech Town, Redditch v RC Warwick; Shepshed D v Bedworth, Stafford v Bloxwich Town, Stamford AFC v VS Rugby; Stourbridge v Paget R, Sutton Coldfield Town v Solihull Borough, Weston-super-Mare v Newport AFC.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge v Accrington Stanley (7 30), Chorley v Lancaster, Colwyn Bay v Altrincham, Emley v Guiseley, Frickley v Spennymoor; Gateshead v Blyth Spartans, Hyde v Whitby, Leigh RMI v Marine, Runcorn v Winsford, Worksop v Gainsborough. First division: Alfreton v Burscough; Ashton United v Droylsden, Farsley Celtic v Bradford PA Ave. Great Harwood v Congleton, Harrogate Town v Radcliffe, Hucknall Town v Eastwood Town, Matlock Town v Belper Town, Stocksbridge PS v Lincoln United, Trafford v Flixton; Whitley Bay v Gretna; Atherton v Netherfield Kendal.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldershot Town v Basingstoke, Billericay v Heybridge, Bishop's Stortford v Boreham Wood (at Hitchin Town); Chesham v Aylesbury, Gravesend v Bromley; Hampton v Walton and Hersham, Purfleet v Dagenham and Redbridge, Slough v Dulwich, St Albans v Enfield, Sutton United v Carshalton. First division: Barton Rovers v Hitchin, Bognor Regis v Worthing, Braintree v Canvey Island, Chertsey v Staines; Croydon v Leatherhead, Oxford City v Maidenhead; Romford v Grays, Wealdstone v Berkhamsted; Whyteleafe v Molesey; Yeading v Uxbridge. Second division: Chalfont St Peter v Windsor and Eton, Harlow v Barking, Hertford v H Hempstead; Horsham v Banstead, Hungerford v Abingdon Town; Leighton Town v Bedford T; Northwood v Edgware, Thame Utd v Marlow; Witham v Wivenhoe; Wokingham v Bracknell. Third division: Epsom and Ewell v Tilbury.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Alan Lido v Carmarthen Town (2.30), Caernarfon v Bangor City (2.30), Caersws v Newtown (2 30); Connah's Quay v Holywell (2.30), Haverfordwest v Aberystwyth (2.30). Rhayader Town v TNS (2.30), Rhyl v Conwy (2 30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Omagh; Coleraine v Newry.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Eton Manor, Concord Rangers v Bowers United, East Ham v Ilford, Great Wakering v Southend Manor, Hullbridge Sports v Basildon U; Saffron Walden v Burnham Ramblers; Stansted v Sawbridgeworth.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v North Leigh; Almondsbury v Fairford; Hallen v Bicester, Harrow Hill v Didcot; Kintbury v Tuffley.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Morpeth Town, Jarrow Roofing v Billingham, Marske v Guisborough.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Cray v Beckenham; Deal v Ramsgate, Greenwich v Erith; Herne Bay v Whitstable Town, Hythe v Tunbridge Wells; Lordswood v Chatham, VCD v Thamesmead.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Sutton v Tiverton; Melksham v Barnstaple, Paulton R v Odd Down, Taunton v Bridgwater; Yeovil TR v Bideford.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Milton Keynes v New Bradwell St Peter; Somersett Ambury v Toddington.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford v Hartley Wintney; Ash v Chessington and Hook; Ashford v Bedfont; Cobham v Westfield, Cranleigh v Feltham, Godalming and Guildford v Netherne, Merstham v Merstham, Raynes Park Vale v Reading Town; Sandhurst v Cove, Viking Sports v Farnham, Walton Casuals v Chipstead.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Ettingshall v Bustleholme; Gornal A v Tipton Town; Ludlow T v Stafford T.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Walton; Felixstowe Port and Town v Stowmarket, Great Yarmouth v Gorleston; Histon v Warboys, Ipswich v Harwich and Parkeston; Lowestoft v Woodbridge Town, Maldon v Halstead; Newmarket v Bury Town, Soham v Ely, Sudbury Town v Sudbury Wanderers.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Newbury v Thatcham Town; Totton v BAT, Bournemouth v Christchurch; Brockenhurst v Lymington and New Milton, Downton v Wimborne; East Cowes v Cowes Sports; Gosport v Fareham; Hamble ASSC v Eastleigh; Portsmouth v Money Fields; Whitchurch v Bemerton Heath.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackstone v Bourne, Cogenhoe v Wellingborough; Desborough v S and L Corby; Eynesbury v St Neots; Ford Sports v Long Buckby; Holbeach v Boston; Kempston v Wootton, Stotfold v Potton, Yaxley v Spalding.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold Town v Pickering, Buxton v Ossett Albion; Hallam v Glasshoughton Welfare, North Ferriby v Eccleshill, Ossett Town v Brigg Town; Pontefract Cols v Garforth Town; Selby v Liversedge.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Atherton Collieries; Bootle v Prescot Cables; Glossop North End v Mossley, Holker Old Boys v Workington, Leek CSOB v Nantwich Town; Newcastle Town v Kidsgrove, Rossendale v Ramsbottom, Salford v Maine Road; St Helens Town v Skelmersdale, Vauxhall G M v Cheadle.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
Hull v Sheffield (12.30)
Leeds v London (3.0)
St Helens v Bradford (3.0)
Wakefield v Wigan (3 30)
Warrington v Gateshead (3.0)

Northern Ford Premiership
Barrow v Keighley (3.0)
Dewsbury v Hull KR (3 0)
Featherstone v Swinton (7 30)
Oldham v Leigh (7.45)
Whitehaven v Batley (3.30)
Widnes v Lancashire Lynx (3.0)
York v Hunslet (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: British Open (in Plymouth).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Atletico Madrid v Parma (6 30). Marseilles v Bologna (7.45).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Blackburn (7 45). Leicester v Aston Villa (7 45).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Bournemouth v Macclesfield (7 45), Luton v York (7.45); Walsall v Wrexham (7.45). Third division: Brighton v Cambridge Utd (7 45), Shrewsbury v Hartlepool (7.45).
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee Utd v Hearts (7 45).
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank v Greenock Morton.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Halifax v Salford (7 30).
NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Bramley v Doncaster (7 30).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Dynamo Kiev v Bayern Munich (7 45), Manchester Utd v Juventus (7 45).
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest Green v Woking (7 45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Huddersfield v Castleford (7 30).

RUGBY UNION

ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: Cardiff v Sale (7.15).

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Chelsea v Real Mallorca (7 45); Lokomotiv Moscow v Lazio (7 30).
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Hereford v Kingstonian (7 45).

CRICKET

UNIVERSITY MATCHES: First day of three: Fenner's: Cambridge University v Lancashire. The Parks: Oxford University v Worcestershire.

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Gillingham v Bournemouth (7 45). Third division: Swansea v Shrewsbury (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

A INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: France v Scotland (at Bourges, 7.0), Ireland v Italy, Wales v England (at Wrexham FC, 7 30).
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: France v Scotland (at Vienne, 5 0); Ireland v Italy, Wales v England (at Neath, 2 30).
CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: Final: Gloucester v Bedford (at Northampton, 7 45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: London v St Helens (7.30).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Southampton; Derby v Nottingham Forest, Leicester v West Ham; Middlesbrough v Charlton.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Tranmere, Bradford v Portsmouth, Bristol City v Grimsby, Crewe v Port Vale; Oxford Utd v Bury, Queens Park Rangers v West Bromwich, Stockport v Sheffield Utd, Sunderland v Huddersfield, Swindon v Birmingham, Watford v Bolton; Wolverhampton v Crystal Palace. Second division: Blackpool v Reading, Colchester v Walsall, Fulham v Wigan, Macclesfield v Preston, Manchester City v Lincoln; Northampton v Luton, Notts County v Chesterfield; Oldham v Burnley; Stoke v Bristol Rovers; Wrexham v Wycombe, York v Millwall. Third division: Barnet v Scarborough, Cambridge Utd v Halifax; Carlisle v Peterborough, Darlington v Torquay; Hartlepool v Chester; Hull v Exeter; Leyton Orient v Cardiff; Mansfield v Southend, Plymouth v Brighton, Rochdale v Rotherham; Scunthorpe v Brentford.
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-finals, first leg: Kingstonian v Cheltenham, St Albans v Forest Green.
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Hednesford v Barrow, Leek v Hayes; Morecambe v Kidderminster; Northwich v Telford; Stevenage v Dover; Welling v Southport; Woking v Farnborough.
TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final: Celtic v Dundee Utd (at Ibrox).
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Kilmarnock v Aberdeen, Motherwell v Dundee.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Falkirk, Clydebank v Hamilton; Raith v Hibernian, St Mirren v Greenock Morton, Stranraer v Ayr. Second division: Alloa v Arbroath; Forfar v Queen of South; Inverness CT v Stirling, Livingston v Clyde, Partick v East Fife. Third division: Brechin v Albion, Cowdenbeath v Dumbarton, East Stirling v Berwick; Queen's Park v Montrose, Stenhousemuir v Ross County.

RUGBY UNION

LLOYDS TSB FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: France v Scotland (at Stade de France, 2.0).
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Ireland v Italy (at Lansdowne Road, 4 15).
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: Second division: Blackheath v Exeter (3 0).
WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Cross Keys v Abertillery (2.30).
AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Ballynahinch v Old Wesley (2 30), Dolphin v Malone (2.30), Portadown v Old Belvedere (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Gateshead v Halifax (3 0).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Manchester Arena: WBO featherweight title: N Hamed (Sheffield, holder) v P Ingle (Scarborough). IBO featherweight title: J Jones (US) v R Evatt (Coventry).
BASKETBALL: Budweiser Championship play-off, first leg.

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Semi-finals: Manchester Utd v Arsenal (at Villa Park, 12.30); Newcastle v Tottenham (at Old Trafford, 3 0).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Everton v Coventry (3 0), Wimbledon v Chelsea (3 0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Norwich v Ipswich (1.0).
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final: St Johnstone v Rangers (at Celtic Park, 6 05).

RUGBY UNION

LLOYDS TSB FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: Wales v England (at Wembley, 4 0).
AIB LEAGUE: First division: Galwegians v Ballymena (2.30). Second division: Bective Rangers v Derry (2 30), DLSP v Old Crescent (2 30), Greystones v Sunday's Well (2.30), UCC v Skerries (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Wakefield (6 0); Huddersfield v Hull, Salford v Castleford; Sheffield v Leeds (3.35), Wigan v Warrington.
NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Batley v Rochdale, Bramley v Oldham (12 0), Doncaster v York, Hull KR v Whitehaven, Hunslet v Dewsbury; Keighley v Widnes, Lancashire Lynx v Leigh, Swinton v Barrow, Workington v Featherstone.

ACROSS

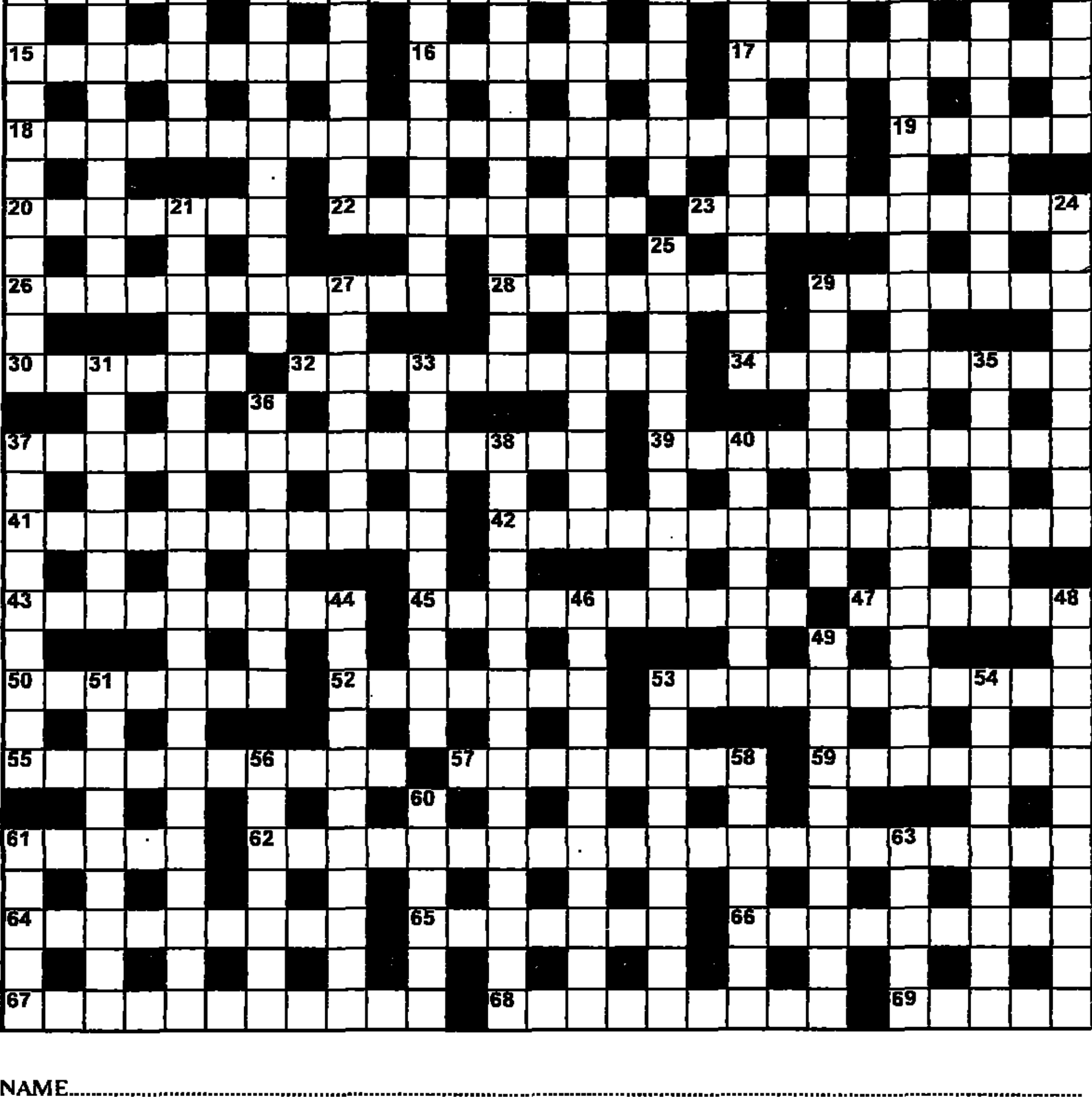
1 Wobbles on the ice (5)
4 Private Brahms collection — note manuscript omitted a certain instrument (9)
9 Something lacking in bit of gen about swagger ruler's adopted (11)
15 Sculptor has two pupils with nothing to give at first (9)
16 Almost mention bird — it's been plucked (7)
17 Unlikely to scan text of this poetry in English? (4,5)
18 Question editor briefly expanded that one was meant to answer (4,4,13)
19 Allow to stay or go (5)
20 Signs of one about to invade subcontinent? (7)
22 Salvo initially let off — that's by the way (8)
23 Go to meet the French representative — one may shed some light (6-4)
26 Seeing examination I sent, or amended text? (11)
28 French painter's right to enter (7)
29 Fish left in a hat? (7)
30 Characters retreating from sanity can ultimately show this (6)
32 Honestly, it's going like a rocket (8,2)
34 Conductor of opera doubled popular backing (9)
37 Saying one should recycle (5,3,4,3)
39 One's soon to start at Cambridge — Jesus, perhaps? (7,4)
41 Type of excellent textbook (5,6)
42 Simple psychology practised in lexicographers' symposium? (4,11)
43 Misses Italian style? (9)
45 Regretting having a record sent in written in verse (10)
47 Economist in town — poet's left (6)
50 Essayist previously appearing in supplement, one particular issue (7)
52 Leading light in astronomy (7)
53 Attraction for punters making tracks for France (6,2,3)
55 A tour's been organised for coastal community (10)
57 Look up perhaps, and goggle, catching sharp swerve, doing U-turn (4-4)
59 One has a role to play, wearing deerstalker (3-4)
61 SA currency certainly includes cents (5)
62 Giving in, cable most reliable conductor? (4,2,5,10)
64 Orator, if I got upset, provided stronger justification (1,8)
65 Is one Liberal returning after brief time in Georgian town? (7)
66 Less likely to have complaints to cope with (9)
67 Submarine was first given rust-protection (11)
68 Rouse the head, offering a biscuit (6,3)
69 Part for piano Tchaikovsky had to score (5)

DOWN

1 Socialist's dispute with one replacing a native species? (3,8)
2 Agreement pet's secured on lead? (9)
3 Composer to gratify fully — one's enthralled (5)
4 Trooper, one captured by European, having turned up over old port (10)
5 So strong accents are more widespread? (7)
6 Go along with what pianist may do (9)
7 Remarkable first half for soccer side is almost a turning-point (11)
8 Patter I do is endless grist for the mill (15)
9 Describing work on bridge, start the game holding no trumps (6)
10 Peter's contributed to this building's security system (4,7)
11 Someone fancying a kipper? (7)
12 New Year, 1793? (13,8)
13 Target man for abuse? She may (9)
14 Mark repeated the old nonsense (2,3)
21 Wouldn't this CO have given orders? (13,8)
24 One type of decoration individual's put round an evergreen (9)
25 Commit a favourite — on a charge (10)
27 Beat the opposition in pool tournament (7)
29 Tree absorbs first bits of extra special mulch in soil (8)
31 Retreat, with urge to make savings (4,3)
33 Brolly a man's furled in an unusual way (10)
35 From a part of Southern Europe, not originally from Northern Asia (7)
36 Force company to take on importing "modified" rice (8)
37 One obliged to look to Labour for support (4,5)
38 Approval given after change of address (3,5,7)
40 Prompt insurance report on fire? (7)
44 It's typical of an index to show accelerating growth (11)
46 Remark made, giving notice? (11)
48 Close examination of cartoons — every one pillorying Right (5-6)
49 Type of sculpture — it's set up in cattle wagon (7,3)
51 Friction caused by bill in club on the way? (9)
53 Seaside ice-cream — last special one in stock (9)
54 Extreme right-winger writing about a one-time archbishop (9)
56 Set free, getting tight, apparently! (7)
58 Political satire needing revision here and now (7)
60 Enemy orderly reduced in rank (6)
61 *Sun* gets FA in a mess — in a real mess! (5)
63 Make fast, noisy, rocket (5)

EASTER MONDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD 219

In our Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword competition, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the first correct solution to be opened on Thursday, April 29, 1999. Entries to Easter Monday Jumbo (219), Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, May 1



NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

....

....

POSTCODE ....

Times Two Easter Monday Jumbo

There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, April 12

ACROSS

1 Simple boy, in the rhyme (5)
4 Involuntary immobility (9)
9 Disrupt arrangement (11)
15 Building planner (9)
16 Enunciating (7)
17 Superior (court), dealing with reviews (9)
18 Creep-up-on-you game (12,9)
19 Bright, striking (5)
20 Sewer's protection (7)
22 Wild winds (8)
23 De Gaulle movement (1940) (4,6)
26 Patient submission: departure (11)
28 Retaining, staying (7)
29 Conspiracy to convict (5-2)
30 (Fin) on the back (6)
32 Deceitful, faithless (10)
34 Method of handling (9)
37 Being deliberately unfriendly (4-11)
39 Feat (11)
41 A substitute (11)
42 Guerrillas (to their supporters) (7,8)
43 Respiring; Greek vowel mark (9)
45 Gold-bearing (10)
47 Recites verbatim (6)
50 Sportsman (7)
52 Eternally young (7)
53 Expecting bad outcome (11)
55 All-pay-shares party (5,5)
57 Small daggers (8)
59 Of old E England tribe (7)
61 Snapshot (5)
62 Show great clumsiness (2,3,7,3,6)
64 State bordering Belize, Honduras (9)
65 Salad plant; coffee substitute (7)
66 Making of clothes (9)
67 Union representative (4,7)
68 Baby birds (9)
69 Constructed (5)

DOWN

1 Killed (for food) (11)
2 Body-motion science (9)
3 Water spirit (5)
4 Astounding (10)
5 Toothed wheel, prevents reversal (7)
6 Member of City company (9)
7 Haughty, inflexible (5-6)
8 Unintended remark (4,2,3,6)
9 Absorb; summary (6)
10 Panic at public appearance (5,6)
11 Sharp reply (7)
12 Effectively completed (3,4,3,3,8)
13 (Done) ahead of time (2,7)
14 Make correction (5)
21 Not ideal offering, but thanks (7,4,2,8)
24 Liver disease (9)
25 One giving emergency attention (5-5)
27 Floating Arctic sheet (3,4)
29 Distracted, madly excited (8)
31 Failure to maintain improvement (7)
33 Opponent of tariffs (4,6)
35 World's highest peak (7)
36 Sticking together (8)
37 Stiff paper (9)
38 The views of those qualified to know (8,7)
40 Sweets; hypocrites (7)
44 Mexico's second city (11)
46 Angler's equipment (7,4)
48 Clairvoyance (6,5)
49 Careless, random (attempt) (3-3-4)
51 Tricky situation (3,6)
53 Representation (9)
54 Three joint rulers (esp. ancient Rome) (9)
56 Chest wall (3,4)
58 Unluxurious (7)
60 Unruffled (6)
61 Young attendants (5)
63 Thermonuclear weapon (1-4)

Court of Appeal — Law Report April 5 1999 — Court of Appeal

Noise at date of nuisance notice

SFI Group plc (formerly Surrey Free Inns plc) v Gosport Borough Council
Regina v Knightsbridge Crown Court, Ex parte Cataldi

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment March 29]

In considering the validity of a noise abatement notice served by a local authority under section 80 of the Environment Protection Act 1990, justices and the crown court on appeal were required to consider the facts at the time the notice was served and not at the time of the appeal.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by SFI Group plc against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Mance) (*The Times* February 13, 1998; ([1998] 96 LGR 369)) allowing an appeal by case stated by Gosport Borough Council against the decision of Portsmouth Crown Court, on appeal from Fareham Justices, that a notice served upon SFI Group plc, requiring them to abate a statutory noise nuisance at Oliver's Bar, Gosport, should be quashed on the ground that at the date of the crown court hearing no statutory nuisance existed or was likely to recur.

The court also dismissed an appeal by Mr Carlo Cataldi against the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on May 11, 1998 (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) of his application for judicial review of the decision of Knightsbridge Crown Court, allowing an appeal by Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council against the decision of West London Justices to quash a noise abatement notice served by the council in respect of restaurant premises at Casa Carlo, Fulham, on the ground that at the date of the crown court hearing no nuisance existed.

Mr Timothy Straker, QC, for SFI; Mr David Holgate, QC and Mr Malcolm Gibney for Gosport Borough Council.

Mr Timothy Spencer for Mr Cataldi; Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the appeals raised a question of some general importance in relation to the enforcement of noise abatement notices served under the Environment Protection Act 1990 on appeal to the justices and the crown court.

That question was whether, in considering the validity of the notice, the court was required to consider the facts at the time of the service of the notice or at the time that the appeal fell to be determined by the court.

In the present cases two differently constituted Divisional Courts held that the former was correct. In *Johnson's News of London v Ealing London Borough Council* ((1990) 154 JP 33) Mr Justice Otton held that the latter was the appropriate date.

Section 80 of the Environment Protection Act 1990 provided:

"(1) Where a local authority is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, or is likely to recur ... the local authority shall serve ... ('an abatement notice') imposing all or any of the following requirements (a) requiring the abatement of the nuisance or prohibiting or restricting its occurrence or recurrence; (b) requiring the execution of such works, and the taking of such other steps, as may be necessary for any of those purposes, and the notice shall specify the time or times within which the requirements of the notice are to be complied with."

The procedure for appeals under section 80(3) was contained in Schedule 3 to the Act and the Environmental Protection (Statutory Nuisance (Appeals)) Regulations (SI 1995 No 2644).

The procedure under section 80 was quite different from that under the previous regime contained in sections 93 and 94 of the Public Health Act 1936. The proceedings before justices under section 94 of the 1936 Act were not an appeal from the abatement notice. Moreover, the clear wording of section 94(2) and (3) made it plain that the justices had to be satisfied that the nuisance existed at the time of the hearing before them before they could make a nuisance order.

But section 94(3) protected the local authority in respect of costs of the abatement notice and the complaint in the event that the justices found, on the hearing before them, that the nuisance no longer existed and was not likely to recur: see *Coventry County Council v Doyle* ([1981] 1 WLR 1325).

His Lordship preferred the reasoning of the Divisional Courts in the present cases and concluded that *Johnson's News v Ealing* had been wrongly decided.

The section 80 procedure was quite different from that under section 93 and 94 of the 1936 Act. There could be no sensible reason for importing the express words contained in section 94 to the wholly different situation of an appeal under section 80(3). No similar words were used in the relevant provisions of the 1990 Act.

The omission in section 80 of the 1990 Act of any comparable provision to that in section 94(3) of the 1936 Act in relation to costs was striking. That was deliberate, as shown by the retention of such a provision in section 82.

It would be remarkable if Parliament intended to deprive a local authority of the costs of the abatement notice and perhaps a successful hearing before justices on the basis that by the time the matter came to be decided in the crown court the nuisance had abated and was not likely to recur.

Coventry v Doyle, based on the language of the 1936 Act was plainly correct. It had no bearing on the quite different language of the 1990 Act.

Where an appeal was brought under regulation 2(2)(a) of the 1995 Regulations the justices were concerned to see whether the underlying facts which constituted the nuisance or its likely recurrence existed at the date of the notice.

The notice was not justified if no statutory nuisance existed or was not likely to recur at the date of its service. That was a question of fact to be determined by the justices and they were not bound to accept the subjective view of the local authority inspector.

His Lordship rejected a further argument on behalf of SFI that the notice, which required them to "cease the playing of amplified music at levels which cause a nuisance at neighbouring premises" was invalid because it failed to specify the particular works or steps required to abate the nuisance.

Lord Justice Brooke delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Potter agreed.

Solicitors: Flynn & Partners, Bournemouth; Mr Richard Clayton, Gosport.

Modern approach to delay

Frawley v Neill

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 1]

The modern approach to the equitable doctrine of laches, whereby the court would not uphold beneficial rights whose assertion or enforcement had been unreasonably delayed by their claimant, was not to inquire into all the circumstances to see whether they fitted within the principles established in previous cases, but rather to ask whether, broadly considered, the claimant's actions were such as to render it unconscionable for him to be permitted to assert his beneficial rights.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Anne Marie Brough Neill, against the decision of Judge Raymond Jack, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on October 20, 1997, declaring that the plaintiff, Sheagan Dermot Frawley, was entitled to all the net proceeds of sale of a house at 5 Rowley Close, Fleckney, Leicestershire, which had previously been jointly owned by both parties.

The house was jointly purchased by the parties in 1974 for £9,050. Of the deposit of £3,250, the plaintiff provided two thirds and the defendant one third. A mortgage from the Halifax Building Society provided the balance. The property was conveyed into their joint names.

In 1975 the defendant, who subsequently ceased to reside there, orally agreed to sell her interest in the house to the plaintiff for £1,400. Although that was disputed, the judge found that there was such an agreement and that the plaintiff paid the agreed sum to the defendant.

The defendant subsequently moved to Canada and arrangements for the conveyance of the property into the plaintiff's sole name were never completed. The plaintiff himself later moved out of the property and eventually stopped paying the mortgage.

In 1988 the building society took possession and sold the property, paying the surplus proceeds of £84,000 into an account pending resolution of the dispute over beneficial ownership.

The defendant contended that the plaintiff was not entitled to the whole proceeds of sale because of delay or laches, and that the judge erred in granting a declaration in the plaintiff's favour when the plaintiff had neither applied for nor been granted an order for specific performance of the 1975 agreement.

Mr Charles Taylor for the defendant; Mr Timothy Harry for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that on the basis of the general rule set out in *Williams v Greatrex* ([1957] 1 WLR 31) delay and laches would not prevent specific performance being ordered in this case, the agreement having been sufficiently acted upon by the plaintiff and acquiesced in by the defendant to indicate the parties' intention that the plaintiff become sole beneficial owner.

Mr Taylor sought to distinguish that case on its facts and relied instead on *Mills v Hayward* ((1877) 6 Ch D 196, 202-203), contending that the plaintiff had not shown himself to be "ready, desirous, prompt and eager" in availing himself of the remedy of specific performance; and that his occupation of the property did not constitute part performance of the agreement in accordance with the rule in *Williams v Greatrex*, because he was already in possession and did not have the defendant's acquiescence.

His Lordship disagreed. Unlike the purchaser in *Mills v Hayward*, the plaintiff had actually paid the purchase price and it would be inequitable to deny him specific performance in the circumstances.

But in any event, he did not need to seek specific performance because the agreement had already been performed and the defendant had become a bare trustee. Nothing further was needed to complete equitable title: it only needed the defendant's signature to complete the legal title. There was no reason why laches or lapse of time should bar the plaintiff's claim.

It was clear that the principles of law applied in *Mills v Hayward* and *Williams v Greatrex* had further evolved within the last 20 years.

A modern approach to laches or acquiescence should not require an exhaustive inquiry into whether the circumstances could fit within the principles established in previous cases.

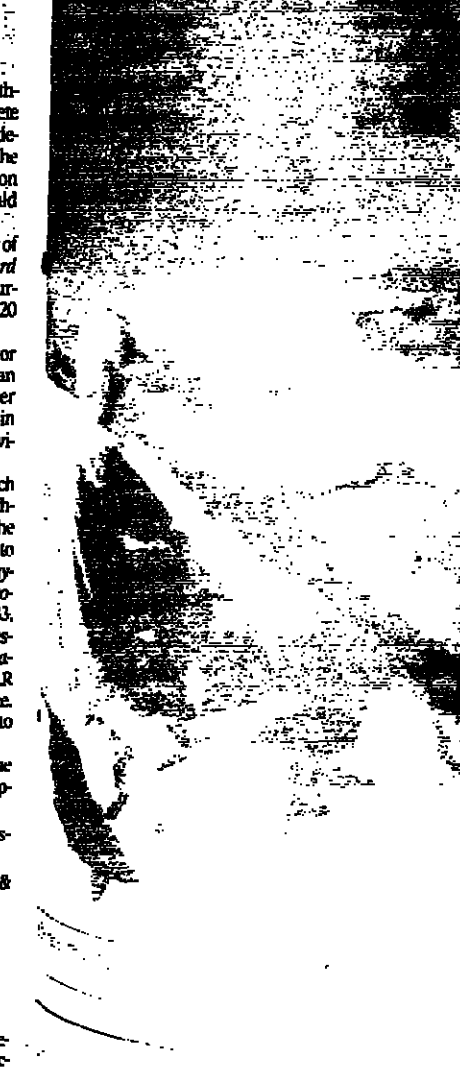
Instead, a broader approach should be adopted, namely whether it was unconscionable for the party concerned to be permitted to assert his beneficial rights: see *Taylor Fashions Ltd v Liverpool Victoria Trustees Co Ltd* ([1982] QB 133, 151), a case on estoppel by acquiescence, and *Habib Bank Ltd v Habib Bank AG Zurich* ([1981] 1 WLR 1265, 1285) a case on acquiescence, laches and estoppel in relation to passing-off.

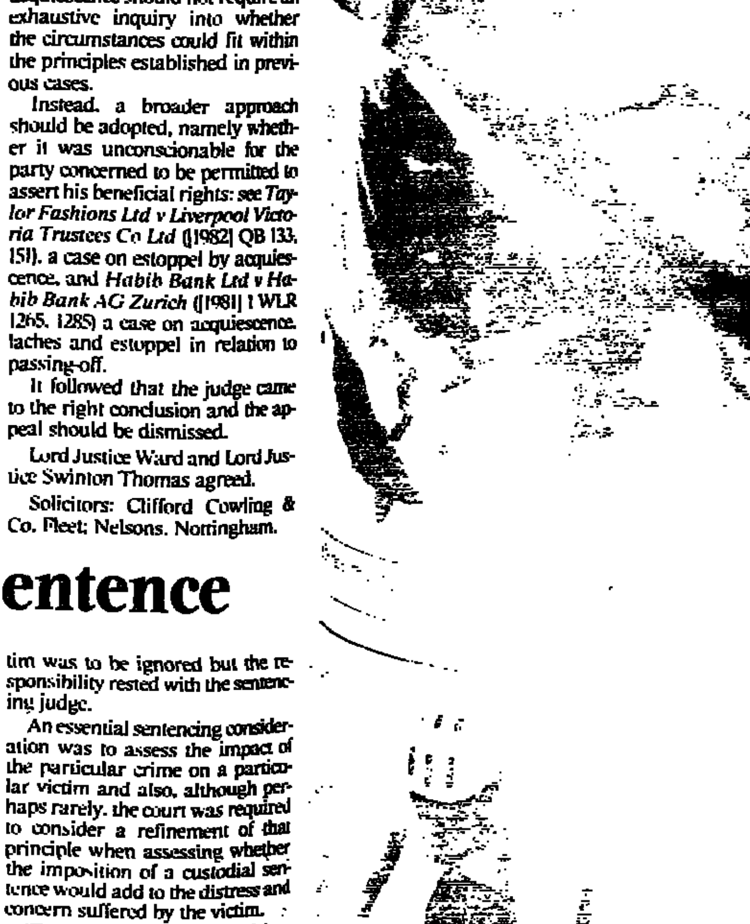
It followed that the judge came to the right conclusion and the appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Clifford Cowling & Co, Fleet; Nelsons, Nottingham.







Perception of duress sufficient

Regina v Cairns

Before Lord Justice Mantell, Mr Justice Gray and Judge Denison, QC

[Judgment February 22]

Where a defendant raised the defence of necessity or duress of circumstance it was sufficient for him to show that he acted as he did because he reasonably perceived a threat of serious physical injury or death but it was not necessary for him to prove that the threat was in fact real.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by John Cairns against his conviction in October 1998 at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Whitburn, QC and a jury) of inflicting grievous bodily harm and dangerous driving, for which he was sentenced respectively to 2½ years and 12 months imprisonment to run concurrently. He was also disqualified for driving for three years.

Mr Robert Smith, QC, for the appellant; Mr John Aitken for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MANTELL said that the victim, who had been out with friends and had had far too much to drink, had climbed on to the bonnet of the appellant's car.

The appellant had driven some distance with the victim spread-eagled on the bonnet and had then braked when he came to a speed hump. The victim was dislodged and landed in front of the car.

The appellant drove over him. The victim's spine was fractured and he was now paraplegic.

All that was observed by a group of the victim's friends who, it appeared from their evidence, did not wish to be associated with his conduct and were trying to prevent him behaving in that way, but it might have appeared to the appellant that they were hostile towards him as they followed the car.

The judge directed the jury as to the defence raised of duress of circumstance in accordance with the two-stage test set out by Mr Justice Simon Brown in *R v Martin (Colin)* ([1989] RTR 63):

First, was the accused, or might he have been, impelled to act as he did because as a result of what he reasonably believed to be the situation he had good cause to fear that otherwise death or serious physical injury would result, and, second, if so, might a sober person of reasonable firmness, sharing the characteristics of the accused, have responded to that situation by acting as the accused acted?

However, the judge went on to add a further objective test in the following terms: "Was what the defendant did actually necessary to avoid the evil in question?"

Mr Smith submitted that the judge was wrong to use the expression "actually necessary". The question of whether or not there was actually a threat was neither here nor there. Nowhere in the direction suggested in *Martin* did it appear that the threat perceived by the appellant had to have been a real threat.

In their Lordships' judgment, Mr Smith's submission was well founded. The conviction was unsafe and would be quashed.

Solicitors: Kidd & Spoor, Newcastle upon Tyne; CPS, Tyneside.

Impact on victim relevant to sentence

Regina v Hayes

Before Lord Justice Judge, Mr Justice Curtis and Mr Justice Sachs

[Judgment February 25]

It was well established that the impact of a particular crime on a particular victim was a proper matter for consideration when sentencing. A further factor which could be taken into consideration was the question whether the imposition of a custodial sentence on the offender would add to the distress suffered by the victim.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in refusing an application by the Attorney-General under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 for leave to refer the sentence of Colin Hayes who, on September 14, 1998, at Warrington Crown Court (Judge Clarke) on his plea of guilty to robbery, was made the subject of a probation order for two years, which the Attorney-General regarded as unduly lenient.

Mr Nicholas Dean for the Attorney-General; Mr Ian Unsworth, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the victim of the robbery was the defendant's 95-year-old great grandmother.

Until that offence was committed there had apparently been a perfectly normal and affectionate relationship between them but at about 4.30pm on July 6, 1998, the victim had opened her door to a masked man whom she did not realise was her great grandson.

He pushed her aside and she stumbled and slid to the floor sustaining some bruising. The defendant stole her purse and ran off. He was arrested and eventually admitted that he was the culprit.

The aggravating features of the case were obvious. This was a victim of some considerable age and frailty and those facts were of course known to the defendant. In mitigation were his plea of guilty and his youth; he was 17 at the date of the offence.

The pre-sentence report noted that the defendant had spent three months in custody on remand and would have great difficulty in dealing with a further period in custody.

His grandmother, with whom he lived, was herself a widow and found life was rather difficult for her without her grandson's aid.

He had always before been kindly and considerate to old people and the evidence suggested that he was profoundly remorseful. As soon as she discovered the identity of her attacker, the victim forgave him and made it clear that she did not want her great grandson sent to prison.

In his sentencing observations Judge Clarke explained in great detail his reasons for putting the defendant on probation. He reminded himself accurately about the normal range of sentences in that class of case but took into account the wholly peculiar and unusual circumstances and the fact that the defendant was the principle carer of the family.

In their Lordships' judgment, the relevant principles were clear. The sentence could not depend on the wishes of those most affected by the crime under consideration. Some victims desired revenge, others wanted to exercise mercy and others did not want to be subjected to pressure if their views were to be taken into account.

That did not mean that the victim was to be ignored but the responsibility rested with the sentencing judge.

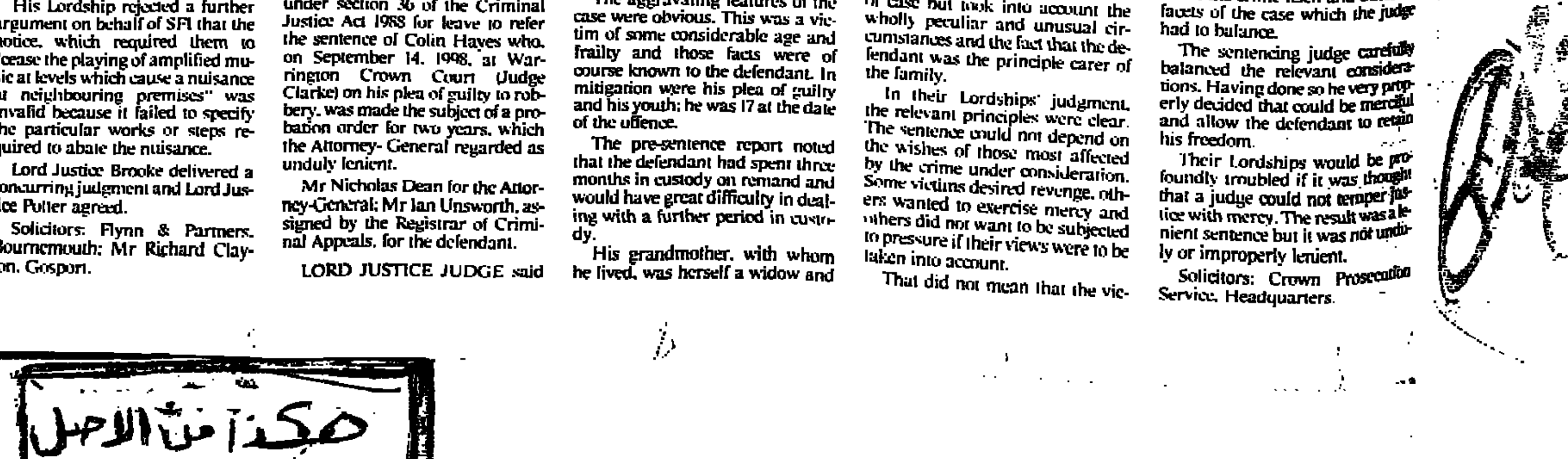
An essential sentencing consideration was to assess the impact of the particular crime on a particular victim and also, although perhaps rarely, the court was required to consider a refinement of that principle when assessing whether the imposition of a custodial sentence would add to the distress and concern suffered by the victim.

That was a factor to which a court had to pay attention. The weight to be attached to it depended on the crime itself and different facets of the case which the judge had to balance.

The sentencing judge carefully balanced the relevant considerations. Having done so he very properly decided that could be merciful and allow the defendant to retain his freedom.

Their Lordships would be profoundly troubled if it was thought that a judge could not temper justice with mercy. The result was a lenient sentence but it was not unduly or improperly lenient.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.



Developers end up in ruins and survive

Martin Waller investigates what happens when the builders unearth further clues to our island history

London, like other British cities of any age, is a palimpsest of past cultures and their archaeological remains. Dig down a few feet and you are in another era. Pity the poor property developer, therefore, who comes across a priceless relic from our history in the course of business.

A couple of weeks ago builders on the Spitalfields development north of the City of London came across a stone sarcophagus. This was the last resting place of an unknown but clearly very rich and powerful inhabitant of Roman London and had been lying undisturbed, and for much of the time unknown, for the past 1,800 years.

Michael Bear, chief executive of Spitalfields Development Corporation, which is redeveloping the site, said this discovery, unlike some that developers have stumbled across in the past, was at least portable, so minimising disruption to work on the site, and could simply be moved to the Museum of London.

But there is plenty of history that the corporation is already aware of lying underneath the site. There is St Mary of Spitalfield, a 14th or 15th-century priory originally situated outside the gates of the City walls. This served as a welcome to the City and subsequently as a hospital, so giving the area its name.

"It's quite an important monument and it can't be touched in any shape or form," says Mr Bear. "There's a friction between ourselves and the museum, who would like to take a bit to the surface and show it, and English Heritage, who would like to leave it untouched. Where it's part of the heritage of the development of London they won't let us touch a single brick."

As a result, the development has had to be redesigned around it. Because the priory ruins are below ground and the old maps are not exact, it is hard to know exactly what is down there. The corporation, therefore, has to use investigating trenches to pinpoint the structure's location.

There are, in all, 3,000 different archaeological remains at Spitalfields, including plague pits and Roman graves as well as the priory, and the site is especially rich for being outside the City walls.

"We have allowed the archaeologists in for as long as they need," says Mr Bear. "You always risk finding something interesting — it's a huge risk. When you develop a piece of ground the cost has to be contained. If you take a nine-month delay on a £30 million site, you are up for £3 million in extra interest payments. Time is money.

"When we bought Spitalfields years and years ago we did a lot of investigating in the archives and we hauled out plans back to the 13th century to get a feel of what was underground. We found more Romans than we ever expected."

In the spectrum of risk, that Roman sarcophagus ranks fairly low. "If you find a Viking ship here, they would almost insist it would be preserved as it lay. And it's not an insurable risk," says Mr Bear.

And what would be the worst-case scenario? "Something like the Globe Theatre. Something of which there's only one in the country, which has immense significance nationally and on which nothing can be built around."

Paul Nuttall, at Ove Arup & Partners, the consulting engineer, is part of the team building a new headquarters for Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, just north of St Paul's Cathedral. He previously worked at Spitalfields.

At the start of the century the Post Office dug a basement at the building and found that, as with so many buildings in and around the City, London's Roman wall ran all the way through. Part of the wall was found to be intact, and of its original height, one foot below the current surface.

The Post Office built a 12m to 14m octagonal visiting chamber where the wall can still be viewed. "It's probably one of the best kept secrets in London, because nobody ever went," says Mr Nuttall.

Three quarters of the site had the wall and other archaeological remains removed; the rest, like St Mary priory, is a scheduled ancient monument, or SAM, and again under the charge of English Heritage.

This has required some extra effort for the builders of the Merrill offices. "We are not building a basement anywhere near the Roman wall, and the piling is going in in a very higgledy-piggledly fashion to stay well away from it," says Mr Nuttall.

One option sometimes favoured by English Heritage is for the developer simply to pour concrete over any remains found, to preserve them utterly, although this is not suitable at the Post Office site. The reasoning is that they can always be dug up in the future, when analytical techniques have improved further and more can be learnt.

Geoffrey Wainwright is chief archaeologist at English Heritage. He explains: "The logic of that is that they are preserved for the future. No building is permanent — look at the London skyline, which is always changing."

It is not a method that finds favour with Mr Bear at Spitalfields. He prefers to find some way to keep the discovery on show, perhaps by protecting it with a glass wall or other structure, as has been done successfully at a number of sites.

"Then you are actually adding some value as a developer to the heritage," he says. "Where it's enclosed in concrete forever it strikes me as a purist game. But I would say that, wouldn't I?"

At the Merrill development, the original visiting chamber is being kept, at no little inconvenience. It is in the middle of a delivery yard and is therefore a potential security risk, so separate access to the public must be provided, complete with security cameras.

Mr Nuttall says that because the existence of the wall was known, it could be dealt with in the original planning process and so caused the development no delays. But unexpected discoveries are quite common. When they occur, a degree of so-called "archaeological mitigation" must be provided, and planning consent will depend on whether English Heritage, if the site is a SAM, or the local council is satisfied.

"There's no reason why it should be unexpected," he says. "Unless someone has already dug a basement there, it's almost guaranteed that something will be found. You have got to dig down to the London clay to be sure."

No one knows how many unexpected finds in the past have simply been greeted with a quick look around and a swift blow with a spade rather than letting the developer in for expensive delay. But recent regulations are aimed at cutting down on nasty surprises for those who want to build on the site as well as preserving important relics. Dr Wainwright at English Heritage is largely responsible for these new procedures.

"When an archaeological site is suspected, and that, in our historic cities, means quite a lot of the time, the developer has to show to the planning authority how he intends to cope with the site, and there are set procedures which he has to follow. He has to protect the site if that's at all possible. If it's not possible, the site has to be recorded before it's destroyed."

Dr Wainwright says this is based on the principle that "the polluter pays" — the property developer pays for the archaeology before it's destroyed.

As a result, since 1990 the number of archaeological digs in Britain has rocketed from 600 to 4,000 last year.

"My profession over the past decade has been revolutionised. There's been a huge explosion of archaeological activity, and the cost of this across the country is £50 million a year to developers. The procedures are designed to ensure that the work is done in advance of development beginning," he says.

The new regulations stemmed from the discovery in early 1989 of the remains of the Rose Theatre on the site of a proposed office block in London, just south of Southwark Bridge.

Development was held up by a campaign, led by leading theatrical folk including Sir Ian McKellen and Dame Judi Dench. There were demonstrations and, at one stage, there was a picket line of actors linking hands to prevent access to the site. It was a developer's nightmare, but Dr Wainwright says it would not have been so if current policy had been in place.

"Developers are able to plan for this. They take on an archaeologist in the same way as they would an architect or a quantity surveyor." Indeed, a number of specialist firms have sprung up to do this kind of work.

"When there are unexpected discoveries and the developer has done everything that's expected of him, then they can turn to us if necessary for financial help to record that archaeological discovery," he says. This shouldn't happen, and on the whole it doesn't — the archives should show what to expect, or something should be turned in when exploratory trenches are dug. But sometimes something truly unexpected is turned up. Recently the earliest boat known in Western Europe was found in Dover harbour by workmen digging a sewer trench.

"Nobody could have guessed that it would be there," says Dr Wainwright. "That was a case when we did step in and provide funds to lift and preserve it." The cost was a relatively modest £600,000, but the main problem on this job was time. In the event, for three weeks the contractor worked elsewhere.

At No 1 Poultry, the old Mappin & Webb site, developers found a crossroads from the earliest period when London was a Roman town. Viking remains were found at Coppergate, York, and an excavation was funded by the public purse before development could go ahead. Most recently a Roman villa was discovered outside Swindon, on the site of a planned housing estate. Here, English Heritage will probably buy the land from the developer to preserve the site.

If a newly discovered Globe Theatre is the developer's nightmare, what is the archaeologist's dream? "My dream discovery would be the remains of Britain after the Romans left, which we really know little about, except from very vague literary sources," says Dr Wainwright.

But developers might note that much more modern structures may be of interest to the archaeologists. There is work being done on Second World War defences, for example. And on a recent survey of Cold War defences, evidence of works that have been obsolete for just a decade.

ANDRE CAMARA



The tomb of one of the wealthiest citizens of Roman London was recently discovered at the site of the Spitalfields development

PETER TRIEVNOR



The rules relating to archaeological finds were changed after the discovery of the Rose Theatre ten years ago

DOVER MUSEUM



The earliest known boat in Western Europe was recently found by workmen digging a sewer in Dover Harbour



Biotech investor investigated after fines on banks

By Caroline Merrell, Banking Correspondent

OECHSLE International Advisers, one of the biggest shareholders in British Biotech, is being investigated by US regulators over share trades that led the London Stock Exchange to fine the banks JP Morgan and ABN Amro last week.

The fund manager, based in Boston, started building up a stake in British Biotech at the end of last year and now holds a little less than 10 per cent of the pharmaceutical company.

The Stock Exchange last week fined ABN £250,000 and JP Morgan £100,000 for accepting an order for shares that also requested a movement in the share price. The fine was for market misconduct. The previous biggest fine, at £350,000, was levied against JP Morgan in 1997, for market manipulation.

British Biotech could not confirm last week that it was the share concerned. However, investigators would not necessarily contact the company concerned in a case of this type.

The US Securities & Exchange Commission is believed to have contacted Oechsle about the share trades.

Oechsle, which also has an office in Mayfair, began building its stake last September, when the British Biotech share price was about 40p. By November 2 it held 60.9 million shares. The shares have since fallen to about 16½p.

The investment manager, which employs Warren Walker, the boyfriend of Koo Stark, manages money on a discretionary basis for American customers.

ABN Amro has parted company with two employees since the matter came to light. One is Angelo Ionome, formerly based in New York. Morgan Stanley's fine has not led to any staff going. A spokesman said that it had dealt with the matter internally.

The Stock Exchange picked up the abnormal share trades through using its "real time" share monitoring system. Its investigation centred on one share trade carried out by Morgan Stanley in September and a number of trades carried out by ABN Amro in October.

The exchange, which plans to spend about £4.5 million on enhancing its share surveillance system, carries out about 80 investigations a year.

New pensions scandal looms

By Robert Cole

A LEADING firm of actuaries has given warning that another pensions scandal could result from the increased use of so-called "defined contribution" (DC) pension arrangements by companies.

Lane Clark & Peacock, the actuarial firm, says that the difficulty for individual employees to work out how much pension income they are likely to get from defined contribution schemes may generate increasing disquiet as more and more people retire on income derived from these arrangements.

Many companies have switched pension arrangements from older-style "final salary" or "defined benefit" schemes to defined contribution or "money purchase" schemes. These newer schemes are less onerous in terms of regulatory compliance and shift much investment risk from employers to individuals.

A result of the shift has been to make it more difficult for individuals to assess the level of income they will receive from their pension. It creates uncertainty over how much should be saved for retirement.

Michael Cranfield, LC&P partner, said: "DC schemes are set to become the next pensions scandal. However, simply providing fixed projections on a set of prescribed assumptions will not be sufficient and, as the problems with personal pensions have highlighted, may be positively dangerous."

In an effort to combat the confusion, LC&P has developed a computer software program, *Pension DCoder*, which LC&P says will revolutionise the way that DC pensions are explained to pension fund members.



ProVen, which owns the rights to Sooty, aims to maximise merchandising potential

ProVen hopes $150m fund will be child's play

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

PROVEN Private Equity, the rights and merchandising company that controls the destiny of the TV puppet Sooty, is planning to launch a $150 million (£93 million) fund in Britain and America this month.

Gordon Power, who spun off the business from Guinness Mahon, is believed to be working on the details of one of the largest funds to concentrate on children's TV characters and merchandising rights.

Apart from Sooty, ProVen has rights through Link Licensing to characters such as Barbie, the doll that is still going strong after 40 years, and Teddybears, the successful children's series on ITV.

Link has also developed a range of products for the Natural History Museum and for Lord's Cricket Ground, on behalf of MCC.

ProVen expects an international bank to invest some $15 million of its own money in the fund and to invest a further $35 million on behalf of clients. Standard Life and United News & Media are also expected to be approached.

Children's programmes and associated merchandising are hot properties at the moment, encouraged by the international success of the *Teletubbies* programmes.

The BBC is estimated to have made £23 million from the series so far, even though the lucrative US rights were retained by Rag Doll, the independent production company behind the Teletubbies.

In the US, children's television advertising totals about $900 million a year. However, the merchandising market is worth more than $17 billion.

FCI helps China to lift bamboo curtain

By Alasdair Murray

A SMALL British company is aiming to lift the bamboo curtain, which has until now concealed reliable information on the Chinese economy, by producing a CD-Rom database detailing the estimated $550 billion (£341 billion) of foreign investment that has poured into China over the past decade.

First China Information (FCI), based in Battersea, South London, has linked up with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation (Moftec) to produce a comprehensive list of foreign joint venture projects operating in the country.

It is the first time that the information, which was previously treated as highly classified by the Chinese Government, has been made available to the international financial community.

However, with doubts growing about the health of the Chinese economy, the Government has been convinced that it must become more transparent if it is to encourage further foreign investment.

Data for January and February this year suggest that foreign investment has slipped by nearly 10 per cent from the same period last year.

The relationship between FCI and the Chinese Government, which has taken five years to develop, has been cemented with Moftec taking a 25 per cent stake in FCI. Moftec has complete control over the licensing of joint ventures and supervises all trade activities between China and the rest of the world.

Sir Barry Jowett, chairman of FCI, said: "This is the first time China has fully opened the door on trade information. The potential for business in China is greater than ever and access to information is vital if this potential is to be realised."

The database lists nearly 140,000 foreign-backed enterprises that are already operating in China for the period until the end of 1997. The aim is to produce regular updates to ensure that the information is of maximum use.

FCI is hopeful that the venture will prove merely the first step in opening up traditionally opaque Chinese financial information to the rest of the world. The company is already working on collecting details of indigenous Chinese companies in a number of important corporate sectors. In the medium term, it also hopes to bring details of key Chinese economic statistics to the international financial sector.

The CD-Rom is being produced with the support of Marshall Publishing, a subsidiary of stock market-listed MediaKey, which is best known for its training videos produced in conjunction with John Cleese.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

Answers from page 34

PEDALFER

(b) A soil in which there is no layer of accumulated calcium carbonate, but in which oxides or iron and aluminium have tended to accumulate (generally acidic and characteristic of humid climates). A portmanteau composed of *ped-* + *al(uminium)* + *fer(rum)* the Latin for iron. "These ideas were accepted in the USA, and the concepts of pedalfers and pedocals added: pedalfers are leached soils in humid areas where aluminium and iron accumulate in the B horizon."

RINCEAU

(c) An elaborate foliated spiral or scroll pattern. The French word. "We have added grace asnd beauty to the whole, by a mixture of grotesque stucco, and painted ornaments, together with the flowing rinceau with its fanciful figures and winding foliage."

SALSA

(a) A variety of sauce served with meat. The Spanish word. "What sort of a stew is it? Let me smell and taste the salsa?"

OORIAL

(a) A wild sheep, a subspecies of *Ovis orientalis*, having a reddish coat and long, curved horns, found in India and other parts of central Asia. The Punjabi *urial*. "The foot-hills to the north and west are still the haunts of oorial sheep."

SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE

1 Rxf7+! Kxf7 2 Qxe6+ and White forces a quick mate, e.g. 2 ... Kg7 3 Qe7+ Kg8 4 Bh7+ Kh8 5 Qf6+ Kxh7 6 Re7+ Kg8 7 Qg7 checkmate.

Reliant plans foreign foray

By Adam Jones

RELIANT, the tiny carmaker best known for the Robin three-wheeler, as featured in BBC's *Only Fools and Horses*, is to take on more staff as part of its expansion into the import and distribution of other niche vehicles.

Reliant, which was bought out of administration in 1996, is about to bring foreign cars into the UK for sale for the first time in its 64-year history.

The first import to go on sale alongside the Robin range, which has just been revamped, will be the Ligier Ambra, a "microcar" that is 3ft smaller than the Mini and designed to appeal to commuters. It will go on sale this month or next at about £7,000. UK drivers need only a motorcycle licence for the vehicle, which has a maximum speed of 45mph. Reliant expects to sell up to 1,500 this year.



Reliant, maker of the Robin, is to import niche vehicles

The group will also start selling the Piaggio Apé, a three-wheeler made in Italy, boasting motorcycle handlebars and a top speed of about 35mph. Prices will start at about £3,000, plus VAT, and it should go on sale in June.

The most exotic import, however, will be a cut-price sports car made by San Engineering & Locomotive, an Indian company that is better known for making trains.

Its San Storm coupé and the San Streak convertible will be significantly cheaper than Western sports cars, with a top speed of 100mph and French styling.

The convertible is likely to sell for just £8,000. Both vehicles are likely to be on sale within five months. Sales of between 800 and 1,000 are expected this year.

Doug Jeffrey, of Reliant, said that new staff will be needed in sales, customer support and other areas, adding to the 60 already employed by the company. He would not say exactly how many will be recruited, but the workforce will be significantly increased.

Reliant is majority-owned by Kevin Leech, a financier based in Jersey.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.61	2.43
Austria Sch	21.44	19.78
Belgium Fr	63.11	58.15
Canada $	2.531	2.343
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9034	0.8319
Denmark Kr	11.64	10.75
Egypt	5.66	5.05
Finland Mkk	9.38	8.63
France Fr	10.21	9.43
Germany Dm	3.068	2.826
Greece Dr	511	472
Hong Kong $	13.25	12.05
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17453	12453
Ireland Pt	1.2243	1.1353
Israel Shk	6.82	6.16
Italy Lira	3052	2815
Japan Yen	206.55	189.02
Malta	0.671	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.464	3.169
New Zealand $	3.13	2.89
Norway Kr	13.00	12.06
Portugal Esc	310.34	288.31
S Africa Rd	10.50	9.54
Spain Pta	258.64	239.85
Sweden Kr	14.01	12.91
Switzerland Fr	2.527	2.309
Turkey Lira	617989	576913
USA $	1.709	1.566

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Thursday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6050 (−0.0161)

Euro
0.6737 (+0.0116)

Exchange index
102.2 (−1.7)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3838.8 (+91.5)

FTSE 100
6333.0 (+193.8)

New York Dow Jones
9832.51 (+10.27)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16327.56 (+311.37)

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1999 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	..	..	..
116½	89½	12.30	AFA Systems	97½	+4	..	..
96½	91½	12.10	AMCO Corp	94	−1	8.5	..
127½	93½	6.17	ATA Group	95	..	7.6	7.7
250	175	41.40	Access Plus	245	−1	2.6	...
47½	44½	5.87	AdVal Group	44½	...	..	7.6
4	2	2.13	African Gold	2	−¼		..
84	66½	30.60	Albemarle & Bd	69	+½	2.3	17.7
34	24	11.40	Alizyme	32	+5½	.	..
65½	42½	14.20	Ambient Media	59½		.	..
130½	102½	6.77	Ambishus Pub Co	107½	.	.	13.9
97	86½	32.30	Anglo Sibrn Oil	89		.	...
108½	93½	2.90	Anglo-Welsh	93½	−15	4.3	...
72½	41½	34.20	Antonov	43	..	..	..
87½	62½	15.70	Aortech	77½	.	..	
85	85	4.42	Aram Resources	85		6.2	32.2
65	65	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65			.
5½	3¾	2.60	Artisan (UK)	3¾	−¼	..	
547½	350	123.70	Ask Central	545	+47½	0.3	...
57½	52½	1.03	Athelney Trust	57½	+2	2.4	49.1
8½	4½	10.60	Atlantic Caspian	6	−1¼	.	
6	6	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	..	..	
340	175½	93.90	BATM Adv Comms	301	−16½	1.0	.
91½	53½	11.90	BCO Technologies	63½	−3	..	
182½	130	27.60	BGR	175	+21½	1.3	19.0
1¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼		..	.
2¼	1½	4.25	Beechcroft	2¼	.	3.2	..
3¼	2½	5.33	Beaufort	2¾	−¼	3.1	54.7
36½	34½	5.36	Bickerton	35	..	1.8	33.2
55	48	0.78	Billam	49	.	13.5	.
38½	18½	1.91	Bilston Btrsea	21½	.	4.9	8.9
1¼	1	7.08	Bechtn Intl	1¼	.		15.4
43½	32½	21.50	Birmingham City	43	.	.	
11½	3	1.78	Blakes Cloth	3¼	..	..	6.1
30½	30½	1.46	Bogod 'A'	30½	.	4.5	..
96½	84½	12.70	Bond Intl Soft	93½	+2	..	22.7
316	305	2.13	Bowness Lers	305		3.1	13.2
13½	10¼	5.62	Brancote Hdgs	13½		...	
65	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60		5.2	7.3
10½	4½	0.67	Buckland Invs	5½		..	...
8	4	0.03	Buckland Inv Wts	4		.	..
162	122	19.30	CA Coutts Hldgs	162	+10	2.7	11.9
100	80	6.07	C & B Publishing	82	−3		6.7
8½	7½	12.40	CCM Distribution	7½	.		12.9
72½	72½	3.19	CW Residential	72½		2.9	36.5
225	165	9.50	Cafe Inns	190	−27	2.2	14.4
45	45	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45	.	...	5.6
6¼	5¼	1.58	Cambridge Min Res	5½	...		..
2½	2	3.38	Cambury Inv	2¼	.		35.9
1	0½	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾			..
42	29	45.10	Card Clear	32	−1½	1.0	.
39½	37½	3.79	Carisbrooke Ship	37½	.	3.3	12.1
23	16¼	198.60	Carlisle	17½	−¾	..	46.1
34	32	1.87	Cassidy Bros	34	+2	10.5	
6¾	3¼	2.15	Celebrated Group	3¾	+¼	..	..
99½	93½	21.40	CI Comms(TV)	97½	..	3.4	17.3
49½	40	15.60	Charlton Athl	44	..		32.2
16½	10¼	16.00	Charterhouse Cms	16	+1½	2.8	13.4
88½	69½	119.90	Chelsea Village	75½	−3½	.	49.0
24½	20¼	122.80	Chorion	24	+2½	0.4	39.5
104½	95½	31.60	Citadel	95½	.	2.4	59.6
39½	26	7.32	City Gourmets	35	−1½	.	.
110	90	0.99	Clan Homes	110	.	...	
14	8¾	11.90	Coffee Rep	12½	+½		..
277½	194	34.20	Commno	257½	+2½	1.8	18.2
212½	75	7.13	Computerland UK	77½		3.1	9.4
15½	11½	8.81	Concurrent Tech	12½	−1¼	2.0	18.8
33	28	6.86	Conister Tst	30½	+¼	4.9	11.4
149½	149½	14.50	Connaught	149½	.	4.3	11.9
1¾	1	1.56	Corporate Exec	1	−¼	.	..
4¼	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	.	..	
113½	113½	[illegible]	[illegible]	113½	..		30.9
105	77½	[illegible]	[illegible]	100	−5	15.6	.
35½	29½	[illegible]	[illegible]	29½	...		
170	82½	4.22	Daw[illegible]	88	−19½	6.0	6.7
2¾	2¼	1.56	Deanes	2¼	−¼		
360	230	14.50	Deep Sea Leisu[illegible]	230	−2½	.	18.2
5¼	4¼	7.39	Denmaster	5	..	2.9	11.7
56½	15½	15.80	Desire Petroleum	33½	+10	.	.
54½	52½	7.86	Digital Anmtn	53½	.		
20½	16½	10.30	Dimension Res	16½	..	.	..
16½	12½		Dimension Wts	13	..	.	
19½	17½	2.59	Dinkie Heel	17½	.	11.4	6.5
89½	80½	7.53	Delyn Group	86½	−1	3.6	14.5
32½	28½	5.50	Dmatek	29¼	−½		14.9
300	225	19.80	Dobbies Garden	300	+10	2.1	16.5
22½	19½	2.72	Downlet	22½	.	5.9	9.5
192½	166½	22.40	Dragons Health	186½	.	1.9	19.4
2	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	.	..	12.9
1412½	395	41.20	Durlacher	1375	+25	.	41.7
38	37½	3.67	Eagle	37½	.	..	
470	189½	110.50	Easynet	470	+111	..	
165	75	18.00	Elec Retail Sys	85	−17½	.	
80	69	21.50	Enterprises	79	+3½	6.7	7.6
27½	17	5.59	Epic Group	24			24.7
40½	27½	3.63	Eurasia Mining	27½	−3		
3¼	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼		4.1	8.5
422	325	10.90	Farlake	420	.	1.2	17.8
64½	55	11.90	Fayrewood	56½	+1	2.7	9.8
86½	81½	4.08	Fieldens	81½	−2		
62½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½			
225	155	5.20	Flomerics	200	−10	1.7	19.9
82½	62½	7.00	Formscan	62½	−3	6.0	7.9
129½	115½	11.00	Fountain Forestry	115½	−4	13.2	16.2
194½	167½	12.30	Furlong Homes	186½	−1	4.6	
52½	24½	4.74	Future Int Telep	40½	−1		
179½	133½	15.00	GB Railways	171	.	4.8	9.6
60	50	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	.	3.3	14.4
10¼	7¼	14.90	GTL Res	9¼	−		
113½	82½	24.00	Garland W&B	85	−	7.4	4.8
26½	21	34.30	Gold Mnc Sard	25	+1	.	
29½	19½	9.59	Golden Prospect	19½		.	73.2
26	17½	10.70	Golf Club	22½		...	..
143½	111½	24.30	Gooch & Housego	143½	+1	1.5	20.0
18½	10½	3.07	Griffin Mining	14½	−2	.	.
2¼	2	2.25	Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	.	.	23.5
0½	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½		...	
8¾	7¼	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8		.	25.5
182	163	48.10	Gulton	181	.	3.7	13.6
5½	3½	2.11	Hansom	5½	.	..	26.7
185	134	22.50	Hardy Undwtg	134	+2½	4.5	7.2
2	1½	11.80	Hartford	1½	−¼	..	.
30	28	7.61	Haras Group	29½	..	.	19.1
67½	67½	3.04	Hat Pin	67½		..	64.1
385	360	7.56	Heavitree	360	−25	2.6	17.4
295	290	12.20	Heavitree A	290	...	3.2	14.0
145	62½	8.55	Helicon Pubg	145	.	.	
85	52½	12.60	Highams Sys	66½		1.9	11.2
94½	87½	8.32	Highland Timber	94½	...	..	..
80½	65½	17.50	Honeycombe Leisure	77½	.	..	12.9
102	100	1.63	Hurlingham	102	+2	1.2	...
58½	53½	3.58	Hydro-Dynamic	53½	−2½	8.5	17.9
30	19½	4.56	IES	19½	−2	...	..
305	305	12.50	I S Solutions	260	−20	1.7	..
737½	512½	160.50	Indpt Energy	612½	.	.	.
66½	51½	11.40	Indpt Radio	63½	−1½	..	..
86½	44	21.50	Infobank Intl	86	+1½	.	...
44½	17½	4.78	Inner Workings	19½	.	..	.
40½	30½	0.79	Integrd As Mgt	30½	−2		..
103½	39	23.80	Intelligent Env	75	−2	.	.
497½	402½	24.20	Inter-Alliance	440½	−9½		.
130	108	24.90	Interior Servicest	119	−3½	3.3	9.8
115½	107½	5.38	Inter Link Foods	114½		2.2	9.7
176½	93½	76.70	Internet Tech	170½	+24½		
627½	562½	83.10	Intl Greetings	602½	−2½	1.9	17.1
87½	32½	26.90	IOC Intl	86½	+37		
425	315	18.40	ITG Group	367½	+2½	.	41.5
262½	205	23.10	JSB Software Tech	243½	−5½	.	.
65½	22½	4.68	James R Knowles	23½	+1	8.5	8.0
37½	32½	3.30	Jardinene Ints	37½	.		10.1
280	222½	17.40	Jennings Bros	235	−10	4.5	10.5
2	1¼	2.46	J Lewis Hmd	1½	−¼	7.7	12.9
42½	32½	10.70	Jordec	34	−1½		6.8
24	18½	4.73	Jumbo Intl	24	+5		41.0
2¾	1¼	7.92	Just Group	1½	−¼	.	.
32½	30½	3.74	Kern River	32½	..	.	
18½	11½	4.75	Keystone Soft	16½	−½	.	.
9	3		Keystone Wts	8		.	
141½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	.	2.1	14.0
55	38	30.80	LTG Technologies	38	.	..	7.5
180	95	6.20	Lady in Leisure	105	.	2.4	9.1
220	180	8.10	Landround	180	−2½	3.5	14.9
378	360	25.20	Lawrence	360	−5	3.1	11.9
4450	3750	71.20	Lawrie Group	3750	..	2.7	3.8
22½	14½	1.71	Lepco	16	..	...	
380	303	74.70	Linton Park	379	.	7.7	4.4
305	305	6.10	Loades	305		0.5	..
20	10½	6.30	Loftus Road	10½	−1	..	
13¼	8¾	4.46	Lond & Edin Pub	13	+2	.	14.0
75	75	3.98	London Town	75	..	3.5	.
45	45	0.45	London Town Wts	45	.	.	..
143½	138½	4.60	Longbridge Intl	139½	−2	4.3	11.4
53½	21½	1.21	Longmead	33½	+½	9.0	16.3
1	0¾	1.75	Lotteryking	1	.	.	12.2
0½	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	.		
0¾	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾		..	..
8½	6¼	5.92	Magnum Power	6¼	−½		
407½	367½	55.50	Majestic Wine	402½	+30	1.6	24.2
14½	9	10.20	Mano River UK	14½			...
5¾	4½	3.75	Manx & O'seas	4¾	.		
35½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	.	3.5	10.2
75	65	1.55	Matrix Hlthcare	67½		5.6	
14	10¼	6.48	Mears Group	13¼	+1¼	3.2	.
4	2¾	16.00	Media Content	2¾	..	..	
23½	17	31.90	Medisys	17½	−¼		
20½	19½	14.70	Megalomedia	20	−½	1.6	22.2
13½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	.		
46½	30½	6.35	Methven's	43½	..	..	
109½	100½	13.00	Memor Group	102½	..		17.5
88½	80	4.33	Metrodome	85			
97½	65½	40.10	Minorplanet	82½	−3½	.	..
106½	50½	8.63	Mondas	68½	−3	.	..
287½	230	32.50	Moorepay	277½	−7½	2.7	...
60	50	3.91	Mountcashel	51½	.	.	4.2
49½	35	7.35	Mulberry Group	35	−2½	5.4	.
3	2¾	2.07	MultiMedia	3			
8¾	7¼	8.25	Murray Financial Corpn	8¼	+¼	.	
110½	107½	5.39	NBA Quantum	110		..	11.2
9	8	0.59	NECA	8	..	3.1	
140	50½	50.10	NMT	127½	+39		
150	87½	11.20	NRP	150	..		36.4
410	165	44.80	Nsb Retail Sys	407	−3½	0.5	36.0
155	127	10.20	NWF Grp	128½	−8½	7.6	6.5
145	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145		6.9	5.6
5¼	3½	3.94	Nat Bldg Mts	4	−¼		
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Pri	105		..	.
90	40½	13.80	Netcall	69	+4	.	.
80	80	1.52	Northomes	80	.	..	24.8
2½	1¼	0.38	Nthn Petlm	1¼		.	
60½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½		.	24.7
37½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts #	17½		..	
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½			
62½	54½	11.30	Old Monk Company	61½		.	16.8
285	12½	6.30	On Line	157½	−6		.
85	75	6.53	Optoplast	75	−1	2.5	12.6
27	9¾	31.00	Oxford Biomedica	21¼	−¼		
0¾	0¼	5.79	Pacific Media	0¼			
11	5	2.96	Pan Andean Res	6¼	+1		.
19½	15¾	2.22	Parallel Picts	17½	.	.	.
220	215	5.16	Park Ests(Liv)	215	..	6.0	14.6
13½	7½	8.08	Pathfinder Props	11½	+3	3.6	.
163½	148½	10.60	Peel Hotels	163½	+1	..	
9¼	7	3.57	Pembertons	7¼	−½	...	..
131½	123½	8.35	Pennant Intl	126½		3.1	
47½	39½	11.30	Personal No Co	42½		.	.
83½	58½	20.60	Petra Diamonds	60½	−4½	...	
58½	40	0.71	Petra Dmnds Wt	42½	..	.	
12	9	8.81	Philippine Gd	10½	.		25.8
17½	11½	2.96	Pital Tech	12½	.	...	
257½	187½	36.30	Policy Master Grp	257½	+11	.	59.7
161	138	31.60	PolyDoc	152½	+2	.	..
58½	38½	8.71	Polymasc Pharms	41½	−2½	.	.
0½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	...	...	.
0¾	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾			
14¼	13	12.50	Premier Asset Mgt	14½			10.9
189½	160½	6.75	Premier Direct Grp	182½	+5		5.9
4	2¾	128.50	Prestbury Group	3¾	−¼	.	56.1
345	340	7.25	Preston Nth E	345			
84½	67½	5.12	Private & Comm	82½		0.7	13.5
260	250	8.75	Property & Cap	250	−5		
18	6¼	8.16	Proteome Scies	10½	−1¼		
57½	35	1.70	Pubs n Bars	46	+8½	..	.
82½	47½	10.50	Pycraft & Arnold	67½		3.2	11.8
94	65½	16.00	Q Group	91½	+26	0.7	14.6
280	214½	72.70	Ramco Egy	240	−7½		
9	6½	10.30	Range Cooker	6½	−¼	2.7	6.2
119½	62	10.10	Raphael ZH	67½	−25	5.6	5.4
17½	14½	2.35	Recycling Servs	14½	.		13.2
5½	1½	5.14	Reflec	1½			
2½	1¼	1.36	Revelation Plc	1¼		30.0	.
6	5	3.29	Riceman Insce	5			.
76½	66½	3.63	Rondec	68½	.	2.9	.
217½	177½	15.60	SBS	177½	−5	2.3	14.3
87½	38	8.95	SCi Ent	70½	−5		
55½	34½	8.96	Salestore	40	−1½	.	
128½	125½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½	.	4.2	13.7
213½	156½	36.30	Science Sys	213½	+3	0.9	
16	11½	4.94	Scotswood Inds	15¼	+¼		
1¼	0¾	1.97	Screen	0¾			
2¾	2½	0.49	Selector	2½		.	
161½	108½	8.79	Shaftone	108½		5.3	5.9
57½	45½	2.41	Shelton (M)	45½		11.5	6.0
8¾	3½	53.80	Siber Energy	8	+1¼	..	
3¾	2½	5.80	Sira Bus Serv	2½	−¼	3.6	8.9
12½	10½	5.06	Sodra Petroleum	12½	+2		
49½	45½	2.87	Solid State Sp	45½	.	1.4	28.7
250	230	10.60	Solitaire	230		3.3	21.0
81½	34½	7.42	Soundtracs	73½	+6	0.7	43.9
1	0½	1.47	South Beach Concepts	0¾			
59½	45½	9.40	Southern Vectis	47½	.	6.1	6.8
86½	62½	25.40	Sports & Out Media	82½	−2½		31.4
157½	55½	13.40	Sports Internet	152½	+6	.	
155	147½	8.50	Springboard Venture Managers	154½	+2		..
282½	137½	35.60	Statware	280	+60		.
196	103	32.20	Stanford Rook	162	−14		
35½	11	2.69	Stentor	23	−2½		
6	3		Stentor Warrants	5	−½		
87½	75	4.12	SupaRule	75			.
135	122	12.20	Sutton Harbour	122		3.6	18.3
43	7	2.61	Syst Integ Rsch	19½	−2		
74½	47½	19.70	Systems Intl	57½	+4	0.2	18.3
3½	3¼	5.73	Talisman House	3½			9.8
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1		.	
37½	22½	3.97	Theo Fennell	24½			26.4
4½	4½	9.00	Thomas Potts	4½		0.5	10.6
19½	11½	1.60	Tom Hoskins	15½	−1		10.1
57½	27½	5.23	Total Office	32½		6.9	
142	96½	13.90	Touchstone Grp	141½	+5	0.3	20.5
40½	15½	11.30	Tradepoint Fcl	39	−¼		
55½	47½	8.28	Tricorder Tech	54½			
145	135	6.72	Trinity Care	140		4.8	12.7
175	145	5.69	UA Group	162½		3.8	
39½	32½	2.96	Univent	32½	−7		28.8
150	122	13.90	VDC	127½	−6	5.4	11.1
9½	6	20.50	Victory Corp	6½			
341½	145	33.00	Virtual Internet	164	+1¼	.	
198½	41½	5.89	Voss Net	163½	+16		
35½	27½	7.89	WML	27½	−2	.	27.8
3	1½	4.28	Weeks Group	3	+¼	4.6	13.0
68½	42	3.38	West 175 Ener	61½	−5		
£115	£105	10.50	West Bromwich	£105	.	.	12.1
9	8	3.59	Western Selectn	8¼	.	3.8	27.4
1½	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¼			
32½	17½	2.74	Westmount Engy	24½	+7	.	.
90	60	1.92	Wilkington	60		10.0	2.4
112½	61½	13.30	Winchester	98½	−3	.	51.9
75	56	14.60	World Telecom	58	−5½		
135	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135		4.9	16.3
170	125	37.00	XKO	159	+5	...	
63½	51½	4.67	Yeoman	61½	−1		.
3	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3	.		.

هكذا من الاصل

Government seeks more room for commercial radio

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR


Smith: departmental study

CHRIS SMITH, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, is considering a full audit of the radio spectrum to see whether room can be found for more commercial radio stations.

Further licences could provide a new boost to a sector that is now earning more than £400 million a year from advertising and is the fastest-growing advertising medium.

Mr Smith has ordered a departmental study of the issue after representations from the Radio Authority, the regulatory body for commercial radio, that the BBC was being wasteful of its use of the radio spectrum.

The Radio Authority case is that the BBC could give up some of its existing frequencies without limiting the audience reach of any of its services.

Mr Smith now awaits the results of the departmental study before deciding whether to launch a formal audit of how the radio spectrum is used in the UK. The issue is important for commercial radio companies because the process of advertising new radio licences has virtually come to an end for existing analogue technology.

Digital radio services will be limited for many years by the number of digital radio receivers in the community.

The question mark over the BBC's use of radio frequencies is just one area where the activities of the BBC are being challenged by the commercial sector.

Both ITV and the Commercial Radic Companies Association have joined together to insist that the BBC's commercial services should be separated entirely from the BBC's publicly funded operation.

Commercial broadcasters are also calling for BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, to be managed and housed separately and regulated by an independent, external regulator.

The pleas have been submitted as evidence to a panel under the chairmanship of Gayvn Davies, the City economist, that is looking into the future funding of the BBC.

Commercial media organisations have long complained that they face unfair competition from the BBC — in particular the advertising of the corporation's commercial products and services on BBC channels.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising has called for a single economic regulator for the BBC and commercial broadcasters.


Nick Leeson, who had a tumour removed last year, is currently undergoing chemotherapy

July release for Leeson

NICK LEESON, the securities dealer who brought down Barings Bank, will be released from a Singapore jail in July, according to reports in Asian newspapers yesterday (Paul Armstrong writes).

The report said that Leeson, who had a cancerous abdominal tumour removed in August, would be released for good behaviour, rather than for health reasons.

Leeson, 32, was jailed for six-and-a-half years in 1995 after being convicted of fraud. His losing bets on financial markets left Barings, Britain's oldest bank, with a $1.4 billion debt.

Wong Kan Seng, Singapore's Home Affairs Minister, told the *South China Morning Post*: "Under our prison regulations we don't release a prisoner just because he's sick. He has to serve his sentence. If he can't survive his sentence in the opinion of the doctors, we will consider giving him a remission."

Leeson is undergoing chemotherapy and is said to have been given a 70 per cent chance of survival.

A film, called *Rogue Trader*, starring Ewan McGregor, is currently being made about Leeson's life.

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW | THE TIMES

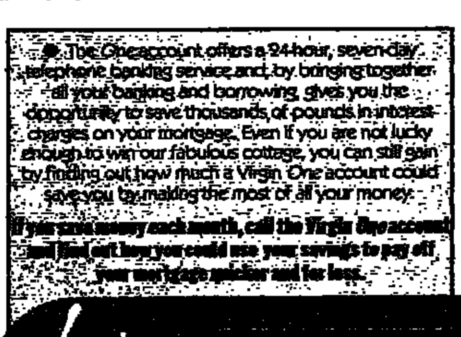


Win a cottage in Cornwall

Perfect for sightseeing: **Trelissick Gardens, Falmouth harbour** and **town centre**

● Today *The Times*, in association with the Virgin *One* account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station. Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11. **HOW TO ENTER** Collect 12 *Times* tokens and two tokens from *The Sunday Times* and attach them to an entry form which appears again tomorrow. Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token will be published on Friday. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply. The terms and conditions will appear again on Saturday.

THE TIMES WIN A COTTAGE TOKEN 13



CHANGING TIMES

GEC in talks to buy telecoms firms for £1.5bn

BY MARTIN BARROW

GEC is close to announcing two deals in America and continental Europe worth a total of £1.5 billion that will accelerate its expansion in fast-growing sectors of the telecoms market.

The company, whose managing director is Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, is in talks to buy the networking equipment businesses of First Data Communications, an $18 billion information services group based in New Jersey. These have been valued at about £1 billion.

Separate talks are under way with Robert Bosch, the German industrial group, about buying its telecoms business, which is worth about £500 million. A deal with Bosch would significantly expand GEC's capability in mobile telephony.

GEC is keen to move quickly to refocus the group after January's agreement to sell its defence electronics arm to British Aerospace for £7 billion. Last month Lord Simpson dipped into GEC's warchest for the acquisition of Reltec, a US manufacturer of cables and switching equipment, for £1.3 billion.

If these two latest deals are completed, GEC will have spent almost £3 billion so far this year, leaving it on course to fully replace the Marconi defence business by substantially increasing investment in telecoms.

Senior GEC executives are running their slide rules over a number of companies in the US, which accounts for about one half of global investment in telecoms equipment and data networking. Another possible target is Fore Systems, based in Pittsburg, whose switching systems are widely used by Internet companies.

Saudis in talks with US oil companies

THE Oil Minister of Saudi Arabia yesterday met with the presidents of Conoco and Marathon Oil, the two US oil companies, for talks on investment in the kingdom's energy sector (Our City Staff writes).

Ali al-Nuaimi met with Archie Dunham of Conoco and Victor Beghini of Marathon and "discussed opportunities of investments in oil and gas projects" in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting follows an invitation to foreign companies by Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah bin Abdel Aziz at the end of last year to submit plans for investments in the kingdom's oil and gas sectors.

Almost 20 years after nationalising its oil industry, the world's top oil producer has turned once again to investments from foreign oil firms to compensate for funds it lacks domestically.

But in February, during a visit by Bill Richardson, the US Energy Secretary, Saudi Arabia ruled out foreign investment in oil prospecting or production but said that the kingdom was interested in downstream investments.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** BTR Siebe, Safeway, Prudential; **Sell** Coffee Republic. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Signet, Viridian, Northern Leisure, Meyer International; **Sell** Maiden Group. *Sunday Business*: **Buy** PowerGen, Signet, Kingfisher. *The Observer*: **Buy** BP Amoco; **Hold** Booker, RMC. *Sunday Express*: **Buy** Sterling Publishing, Barlows, Mears. *Independent on Sunday*: **Buy** COLT Telecom; **Sell** BAT.

TEMPUS

Trackers' pursuit of the big beasts is no substitute for strategy

They are called the "Magic 28" and, no, they are not a group of dissident conjurers. They are 28 of the largest companies quoted on European bourses.

All 28 stocks appear as constituents in three of the leading European stock market indices — the FTSE Eurotop 300, the Euro Stoxx 50 and the MSCI Europe Index.

Such is the power of indexation on fund management strategies today that technical research into index dynamics is of key relevance. If the investment community as a whole chases big stocks, those stocks are likely to rise in value. And if they are going to rise in value, investors want to be in them.

Active managers can and do outperform the index-tracking funds, which, by definition, do little better than average. There is, however, compelling evidence to suggest that any such outperformance is more to do with luck than judgment. Active managers are just as likely to underperform the average.

Active management is also costly, requiring the employment of analysts and strategists. The cost of these additional overheads can detract from the performance of an investment portfolio.

It is sometimes said that index tracking is preferable to active management because it takes human error out of stock selection. Detractors say that index tracking is inflexible and cannot be easily adjusted to sudden changes in market conditions. In truth, index tracking concentrates the influence of human judgment on investment strategies because there is so little room to alter the template, created by humans, in the light of events. Trackers are only as reliable as the constitution governing the index's make-up. Using size to determine index weighting may be a good policy, but it is not infallible.

Fans of trackers maintain that there is no need for flexibility and, true enough, to date there has been no crying need for the flexibility that active managers have. However, this does not mean that leeway will not be needed in the future.

It is to be hoped that the influence of indexation will not become a stranglehold, and that the investment management community will come to realise that owning shares simply because other people own them leads to unsustainable prices.

All being well, it will become apparent that big stocks are overvalued. Then attention will focus on smaller companies, which represent much better value. Unless valuation balance is restored and the influence of indexation is curbed, the bubble will burst.

So much for the theorising. Short term, investors must surely make themselves aware of the existence of the Magic 28, and bring the implications of its existence to bear on portfolio management decisions.

Investors ought also to watch for the emergence of similar groupings. UK companies do not feature in the Magic 28 because the Euro Stoxx 50 includes only euroland shares. However, it cannot be long before other similar overlaps are noticed. In the short term, there may be profits to be made.

ROBERT COLE

THE MAGIC 28

COMPANY	COUNTRY	SECTOR
ABN Amro	Netherlands	Banking
Aegon	Netherlands	Insurance
Ahold	Netherlands	Food
Alcatel	France	Technology
Allianz	Germany	Insurance
AXA	France	Insurance
Bayer	Germany	Chemicals
Carrefour	France	Retail
Daimler-Chrysler	Germany	Automobiles
Deutsche Bank	Germany	Banking
Elf Aquitaine	France	Energy
Endesa	Spain	Utilities
ENI	Italy	Energy
Generali	Italy	Insurance
ING	Netherlands	Financial Services
L'Oréal	France	Consumer
Mannesmann	Germany	Industrial
Philips Electronics	Netherlands	Technology
Rhône Poulenc	France	Pharmaceuticals
Royal Dutch Petroleum	Netherlands	Energy
RWE	Germany	Utility
Siemens	Germany	Technology
Société Générale	France	Banking
Telecom Italia	Italy	Telecoms
Telefonica	Spain	Telecoms
Unilever NV	Netherlands	Consumer
Veba	Germany	Conglomerate
Vivendi	France	Utility



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Shaking the foundations of firms' Chinese walls

Robert Lea says the legal row involving Prince Jefri may have done a great service to City professionals

The rise and fall of Prince Jefri Bolkiah has made for a right riveting read. On the way up the brother of the Sultan of Brunei made much use of the trappings of the fabulous wealth of his oil-rich family. There was the personal Boeing 747, the luxury yachts, the use of his own hotels, such as the Bel Air in Beverly Hills and the Plaza Athenee in Paris, and his Park Lane club, The Playboy, in London, not to mention the polo matches with the Prince of Wales.

On the way down, however, after falling out with the Sultan, he lost control of the powerful and secretive Brunei Investment Agency and salacious details of his private life made the headlines in the tabloid press during the course of an extraordinary High Court trial.

But out of this tangled web and the destruction of his public reputation, Prince Jefri may have done a great service to the City of London. From his dispute with the Sultan and the ensuing investigation into his chairmanship of the BIA, Prince Jefri entered into a legal row which has defined more clearly what constitutes a professional conflict of interest and how firms and financial institutions should manage such perceived or actual conflicts.

The BIA is the agency that manages the money, external assets and investments of the Government of Brunei. Its auditors are KPMG, the international firm of accountants, which since 1983 with additional consultancy advice has put in about 10,000 hours a year in chargeable time. It has been a massive contract for KPMG which has enjoyed what has been called a "long and close working relationship" with the BIA, led by its engagement partner, Peter Harrison.

Prince Jefri, the third and youngest of the Sultan's brothers, was a favourite of the potentate, having previously been Minister of Finance. That was until March 1998, when Prince Jefri swiftly fell from grace, was removed as chairman of the BIA and lost control of companies under his aegis under emergency decree by the Brunei Government.

Prior to this, the relationship that Prince Jefri had with KPMG led him to appoint the firm to help out with a complex legal battle with two London-based business intermediaries, Bob and Rafi Manoukian. Over a period of 18 months, 12 KPMG partners, 81 senior staff and 75 other KPMG professionals were involved in investigations on behalf of Prince Jefri under the leadership of partner Adam Bates. The work, codenamed Project Lucy, earned the firm £4.6 million in fees over the course of the 18 months, which ended last spring when the Manoukian case came to court. It was swiftly settled, but not before Prince Jefri's private peccadilloes had been so exposed.

By last June the Sultan had ordered an investigation of the BIA's affairs; Mr Harrison, the lead audit partner, was summoned to look into the transfer of funds going in and out of the BIA. A month later the BIA summoned John Ellison, a senior KPMG forensic partner, along with Mr Harrison and Michael Fowle, a senior executive of the firm, to investigate the series of asset withdrawals and "special transfers".

KPMG set up the investigation, codenamed Project Gemma, but only after they had put in place special confidentiality arrangements with separate project rooms and computer servers and employing only staff who had been vetted specially by KPMG's solicitors. Over the space of two months the KPMG team on this investigation put in 7,500 chargeable hours.

However, in September Prince Jefri was in court again, this time seeking to prevent the Gemma investigation for the BIA from continuing on the basis that KPMG, through its previous work for him, had access to "extensive confidential information" on him. He argued that he had neither been informed by KPMG of its investigation for the BIA, nor had his consent been sought.


ANTHONY UPTON

Prince Jefri entered a legal dispute that has defined more clearly what is a conflict of interest

It was on this basis that an injunction was granted on September 15 to stop the Gemma investigation. That injunction, however, was turned down on appeal when Lord Justice Woolf, accepting the lengths to which KPMG had gone to put up Chinese walls, concluded that a continuing injunction "would create unjustified impediments in the way large international firms conduct their business".

However, in one of the speediest cases in modern legal history, a week before Christmas, the House of Lords overturned the judgment of the Court of Appeal. Lord Justice Millett stated that information pertaining to KPMG's "Lucy" investigation on behalf of Prince Jefri would be relevant to the investigations on "Gemma" for the BIA in a situation where the BIA's interests were clearly adverse to those of Prince Jefri. KPMG was barred from continuing to act because a conflict existed even though the prince was a former KPMG client.

Jeremy Cole, a litigator, and Nigel Read, a corporate lawyer, are partners in Lovell White Durrant, which advised Prince Jefri, and are as close as any to the case. They explained their take on it.

"KPMG had erected an *ad hoc* Chinese wall to manage their conflict. They claimed it was effective because by the very nature of their business they and their staff were experienced and trained in the need to manage information obtained from a competing commercial interest.

"The House of Lords concluded that this was not enough. It is one thing to separate the insolvency, tax, audit and forensic departments and erect Chinese walls between them. But it is quite another matter to try to erect an *ad hoc* Chinese wall within the same department.

"The teams would have rotating membership involving far more personnel than were working on the project at any one time. Individuals might have joined from and returned to other projects. There was a natural tendency to share information and expertise. The difficulty of enforcing confidentiality or preventing unwitting disclosure was therefore very great."

> 'The problem with Chinese walls is not how high you can construct them but whether people can get underneath them'

The Lords judgment — that despite the lengths to which KPMG had gone this was still not enough to prevent a potential conflict of interest — poses serious questions for the City.

But Cole and Read advise: "There are clear lessons to be learnt about managing client conflicts, about making people think more carefully how they deal with such situations and it will, inevitably, raise the profile of compliance teams across the City."

One legal adviser to City institutions explained: "The upshot of the Lords ruling is that what we will see is compliance departments becoming even more active in their role of identifying potential conflicts before they occur. What we will have to see is larger and more active compliance teams who become active in managing the client relationship.

"What is plain is that you cannot have a situation where the adviser has to resign halfway through a deal because the compliance department has belatedly found a damaging conflict of interest."

On the coalface the view is slightly different. A compliance officer of a much-merged big City institution, which declined to be named, said: "The ruling has certainly put the cat among the pigeons. It has been hard enough handling the conflicts because of the way our firm has evolved. There is a very big likelihood that the firm could be giving M&A advice to a client, while at the same time providing the finance and at the same time having an interest on the private client side as well.

"Put on the layer that any one of these functions could be being handled from London, New York or a main European office and you realise the extent of the problem.

"On the one hand, it may be difficult to know what various people are up to, and on the other hand, even if the Chinese walls exist, geographically or operationally, it is still a people business in which people talk. This ruling just highlights the potential problems."

What some big City institutions are hinting at is that compliance departments over time will have to be manned by more and different types of people. In the past, compliance has been seen as a quasi-legal department. The argument now is that the compliance department needs people with market experience and knowledge.

What this means is converting current fee-earning professionals into compliance officers. While this may hold horrors for some fee earners, there are others — not least those with young families — who for lifestyle reasons will prefer the more regulated hours of the compliance department to the 4am deal-doing of those at the sharper end.

The stark facts remain, however, that clients are under a twofold threat: first, that advisers will not always see that what they are doing presents a conflict; and secondly, that there are always ways in which the walls can be breached. As one professional close to the KPMG case observed: "What we had here is KPMG partners given the option of coming on to a very big job — partners who have to have one eye on their annual fee billings targets.

"There was obviously a potential problem here, but a business decision was taken. It was an area that had never been tested and the Court of Appeal agreed that what KPMG had done was correct. They had gone to extraordinary lengths to secure the Chinese walls. It is just that in the view of the Law Lords these walls were not — potentially — secure enough."

He added: "A key potential problem, as with major assignments in general, was that some people working on the case were very junior. It is here where there is potential for slippage. These people are junior, but they are far from stupid. In fact, in many cases, these will be highly motivated, very intelligent graduates; the type of people who when they are doing the photocopying read the information. The problem is they may not have the experience or the judgment which prevents them from talking to colleagues about what they have seen.

"The problem with Chinese walls is not how high you can construct them but whether people can get underneath them."

KPMG is saying little about the case. It is taking counsel's opinion on what it means for the firm's internal systems though, privately, its argument is that the effects are not as dire as some lawyers would argue.

According to Lovell White Durrant, the bottom line for professional advisers is: "In the event of a conflict, either don't act for the client or get consent from the client."

To many in the City, conflicts of interest are still a matter of judgment and something in which the City prides itself on managing well.

Legally, however, the Law Lords have now ruled that the right of the individual to have confidence in the confidentiality of their information is uppermost, superseding the previous reasoning of the Court of Appeal, which took the commercial view that conflicts of interest do happen but that big firms can manage these situations.

The real bottom line, however, is something much more tangible. KPMG was caught bang to rights, advising in a situation when it should have questioned more closely whether it should have been. For all its assignments the firm received millions of pounds in fees. After deducting the costs of unsuccessfully defending in the courts its right to act, one can safely assume that KPMG remains soundly in profit on the case.

One may wonder that while fees are there to be earned and the profit motive remains one can equally assume that professional advisers will continue to test the law on what defines a conflict of interest.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A soap star on song

Martine McCutcheon: This is My Moment
ITV, 6.30pm (not Scotland)

Anybody still mourning Tiffany from *EastEnders* may find this upbeat film about the actress who created the role suitable therapy. Or perhaps the contrast between the whining and victimised Tiff and the spirited, positive-attitude Martine might interfere with the necessary suspension of disbelief next time they visit Walford. Following the actress, now an aspiring (and it must be said, better-than-average) singer, over a three-month period from the last days on *EastEnders*, it is essentially a puff for her first record release.

The Man
BBC1, 8.30pm

Lenny Henry is the chap in question, a Midlands travel agent and part-time rhythm 'n' blues band singer who is convinced that he will soon hit the big time. The Oscar-nominated Marianne Jean-Baptiste plays his broody partner. Adrian Edmondson, Morwenna Banks and John Sessions are among Henry's fellow comedians playing (fairly) straight in this comedy drama by Jon Carter. The nuts and bolts of the plot are unconvincing, but as the story of our hero's reluctant journey to maturity and fulfilment — via humiliation and abandonment, naturally — it is convincingly played, with Henry harnessing his puppyish eagerness to please to create a genuinely rounded and at times unsympathetic character.

Moby Dick
BBC2, 8pm

By the same paint-on-glass animation team that produced the Oscar-nominated *Canterbury Tales*, here's an heroically condensed, 30-minute adaptation, by Brian Sibley, of the Herman Melville classic. The images are vivid, sometimes frightening, sometimes charming, and move the tale very smartly along in the hands of the director, Natasha Orlova. Tim Guinee voices Ishmael, our narrator. Rod Steiger provides the gruff tones of Captain Ahab, while Burt Kwouk admirably conveys the stoic attitude of the soothsayer Fedallah.

Martine McCutcheon trades Walford for New York in *This is My Moment* (ITV, 6.30pm)

Paul Zenon Turning Tricks
Channel 4, 10.40pm

The magician and illusionist Zenon takes to the late-night streets, bars and clubs of London, Manchester, Blackpool and Glasgow for a *tour de force* demonstration of in-your-face card tricks, illusions and offbeat humour. His skills are as baffling on-screen (and with the benefit of slow-motion replays) as they clearly are in person, even allowing for the inebriated state of many of his victims / collaborators. **Tony Patrick**

Newcastle v Tottenham Hotspur
Sky Sports 1, 7pm

Any doubts that Spurs supporters may have had about George Graham's loyalty to the club will have been purged by the Worthington Cup final victory last month. Graham has tightened the team's defence and allowed David Ginola (formerly of Newcastle), to flourish. Newcastle, however, are under-achieving in the Premiership, and Ruud Gullit will want to win this match to stake a claim for a European place next autumn and to appease the fans who are becoming impatient at the lack of success. This match will serve as a rehearsal for the FA Cup semi-final later this month. **Barry O'Keeffe**

RADIO CHOICE

Just William: The 80th Anniversary
Radio 4, 9.45am

One of two programmes today that offer the rare opportunity for parents to stay with Radio 4 without having their holidaying children demanding a switch to some other network (assuming you can get them out of bed). The *Just William* stories by Richmal Crompton first appeared in *The Home* magazine 80 years ago and if William and his gang, the Outlaws, would nowadays be more likely to be a putative rock band rehearsing in William's background, the very quaintness adds to the charm. Martin Jarvis has won awards for his interpretations of previous stories and is reading five more each day this week, starting today with the gang's attempts to get an April Fool joke to do something other than rebound on themselves.

Afternoon Play: Five Children and It
Radio 4, 2.15pm

The word "enchanting" is overworked to an annoying degree in relation to stories about children but it surely does apply to this E. Nesbit classic, which evokes balmy summers and magical childhood adventures. The story concerns five children who discover, while playing one day on a beach, a strange and powerful creature who grants wishes, including the gift of flight. The resultant adventures reach into every corner of the imagination, with soaring triumphs taking their place alongside unexpected disasters as the children encounter everything from Red Indians (as they were still known in Nesbit's Edwardian times) to medieval knights on chargers and sinister robbers. Julia McKenzie plays the lead. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

5.00am Kevin Greening **9.00** Chris Moyles **1.00** Scott Mills **4.00** The Official UK Top 40 — The Year So Far **7.00** Lamacq Live. Featuring Catatonia live **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Songs of the Century **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland **9.30** Joe Brown: Let It Rock. New series celebrating the golden age of rock 'n' roll (1/13) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Mo Dutta **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Brian Hayes **12.00** Midday News **1.00pm** Sport on 5. Football: Chelsea take on Leeds United and Coventry City play Southampton. Rugby League: Hull Sharks v Sheffield Eagles. Racing: the Irish National at Fairyhouse. Cricket: fourth Test between West Indies and Australia in Antigua **6.06** Six-O-Six **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Monday Match. Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur **9.40** Wembley Winners. New series. Peter Slater remembers great FA Cup finals **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Let's Talk Soap **1.00pm** The Sports Zone **7.00** Under the Posts **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Gordon Astley

VIRGIN

6.00am Phil Kennedy **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Talking Point **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Coffee- A Hellish Brew **8.30** Everywoman **9.00** World News **9.05** Record News **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** Health Matters **10.00** World News **10.05** Business Class **10.20** Counterpoint **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Pick of the World **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Health Matters **3.30** Meridian **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** Seeing Stars **4.30** Composer Of the Month **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** The Way We Are **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Adopting Attitudes **8.00** World News **8.05** Health Matters **8.30** The Farming World **8.45** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** The U.K. Top Twenty **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Health Matters **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Record News **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Sarah Lucas. The final countdown to this year's Hall of Fame. The top 300 pieces of classical music as voted for by listeners to Classic FM **9.00** Henry Kelly. Continuing the Hall of Fame **11.00** Jane Jones. The top 300 countdown continues **1.00** John Brunning **3.00** Susannah Simons. More listeners' favourites **5.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Paul Gambaccini. The No 1 Hall of Fame for 1999 is revealed. Last year, Bruch's *Violin Concerto in G minor* took the honours. Will it still be there? **9.00** Hall of Fame Concert. The top three works from the Classic FM Hall of Fame played in their entirety. Presented by Nicholas Tresilian **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday
10.30 Artist of the Week: John Tomlinson
11.00 Sound Stories: Cathedrals Richard Baker investigates Canterbury Cathedral
12.00 Composer of the Week: Benjamin Britten (r)
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Thomas Allen, baritone, Malcolm Martineau, piano
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A, K622); Schubert (Symphony No 9 in C, Great)
4.00 Opera in Action with Graeme Kay
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty previews *The Red Violin*
7.30 Performance on 3: Endless Parade (Sounding the Century) A concert given last month in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the conductor Simon Rattle introduce and perform Nicholas Maw's *Odyssey*
9.35 Postscript: Cinema Apocalyptica (1/5)
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside introduces a selection of songs written in 1998
11.00 Night Waves An extra programme each week for the late-night arts review series. Richard Coles meets the author Simon Schama
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the seven-string guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli in concert
12.00 Through the Night Includes **12.00** Faure (Apres un reve) **12.20** Bruhns (Die Zeit) **12.30** Bernstein (Candide) **12.35** Pachelbel (Aria) **12.45** Sterkel (Duet) **1.00** S. Terentjev, piano

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor
9.00 Start the Week Hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: Just William See Choice
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests
11.00 My Dad's Diary Journal of the Rev David Davies
11.30 Full Moon New series (1/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours
1.00 The World at One with James Cox
1.30 Mastermind General knowledge
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Five Children and It E. Nesbit's tale. See Choice
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 66 (r)
4.00 The Food Programme (r)
4.30 Four Corners New series
5.00 PM with Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Quote, Unquote
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady by E.M. Delafield (r)
8.00 Race to Do Better with Ferdinand Dennis (1/2)
8.30 Analysis with Julian Le Grand
9.00 Spring Watch New series
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Justin Webb presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Alan Howard reads part one of Robert Harris's thriller (1/10)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Plunger by Johnny Meres
11.30 Crossing Over Belinda Sykes (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Part one of Philippa Gregory's turbulent novel
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

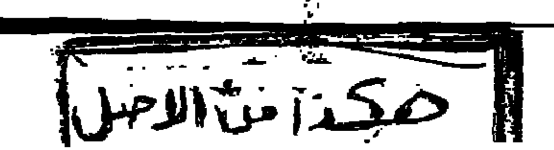
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Sophisticated drama, but no real surprises

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

To experienced viewers of murder stories, it probably stood out like Ronald McDonald at a funeral. After all, the killer is generally somebody we aren't supposed to suspect, like the butler, the milkman or, in this case, the vicar.

The Dark Room (BBC1, Friday and Saturday) called itself a "psychological thriller", implying something more sophisticated and disturbing than a "whodunnit". So when that nice Reverend Simon Harris, who seemed so reasonable, turned out to be the skull-fracturing psycho, seething with repressed rage, it was a bit of a let-down. Yeah, yeah, if you say so.

This was a pity. The construction of Minette Walters's plot is extremely clever. The heroine, Jinx (unlucky name, unlucky gal) Kingsley (Dervla Kirwan) is badly injured in a road accident while apparently drunk, but has lost all memory of how it happened.

Her best friend and her former fiancé, who were about to run off together, have been found with their heads smashed in. Her father, a self-made millionaire with a thuggish past, puts her in a discreet private clinic and tries to control her convalescence in a decidedly menacing way.

Jinx gets flashbacks of gory and sadistic violence and thinks that she may be responsible for it.

Walters neatly counterpoints the police investigation with Jinx's analysis by the psychiatrist Dr Alan Protheroe, and we wait for the two strands to converge. But the "psychological" heart of the thriller appeared to be the disturbingly claustrophobic relationship between Jinx and her father. When this turns out to be another false trail, it rather undermines the point of the psycho-drama.

The production deserves some kind of award, though, for trying so desperately hard to be stylish. From the strained violin chords and ominous piano to the minimalist interiors, everything screamed "sophistication!" All characters wore toning shades — black, or deep dark blue (the new black) or dark grey (the new dark blue) — even the cops and the vicar, who probably had an Armani dog-collar.

Everyone was terse and intense and utterly humourless. After a while (about five minutes, as I recall) this got a trifle wearing. I longed for Inspector Frost to saunter in in his anorak and say something sarcastic. But the executives of Birt's BBC are into designer suits and being stylish, and I expect they thought this was the business.

If you wanted an authentic psychological mystery, you would have been better off with **In The Footsteps Of Bruce Chatwin** (BBC2, Saturday and Sunday), another of the three two-parters which straddled the weekend.

Television rarely produces significant or original art, but it can be excellent at paying tribute to it. Nicholas Shakespeare's intriguing and often moving profile of this "difficult", enigmatic writer, based on his recent biography, was as fascinating for what it could not reveal as what it could. Even Chatwin's nearest and dearest didn't pretend to understand him, although they didn't see that as a problem either. It was all part of the fascination.

There are many possible explanations for Chatwin's chronically itchy feet. He had a massive "magpie" craving for knowledge. He was, since early childhood, fascinated by curios and exotica. Despite his brilliance he was a failure at school. He was extremely close to his mother and above all he was deeply ashamed of his homosexuality and wanted to hide it from the world.

After a while this speculation seems fatuous, and it certainly wasn't the main interest of the programme, which traced the creation of those extraordinary books. It was travel writing, but not as we knew it. Not quite fiction, not quite reportage. Chatwin used the stories of little-known communities as catalysts for a kind of anthropological speculation about the human condition.

Shakespeare interviewed many of the subjects who appeared in Chatwin's books under changed names, especially in *In Patagonia* and *The Songlines*. Often he embellished, sometimes he falsified, sometimes he photographed them with cold, unflattering accuracy, but mostly they forgave him. It was strangely moving to hear them reading his descriptions of themselves.

Most affecting was his wife Elizabeth, who said that she sometimes felt like a Tuareg slave, minding the oasis, while her master roamed in search of humanity's nomad past. She must have been terribly hurt at times by his neglect and secrecy, but she loved his mind, and she accepted the deal without self-pity or regret.

When he died of Aids, having pretended it was a rare fungal infection, still romantically young, he took his innermost thoughts to the grave and left us five of the most distinctive books in modern literature.

Perhaps he will become a source of speculation and legend, like some Ancient British wizard. Part one of **Merlin** (Channel 4, Sunday) didn't bother with any tedious nonsense about truth or authenticity (how could it?). It was just old-fashioned, pyrotechnic knockabout fun.

This was just as well because a lot of the acting was awful. James Earl Jones wasn't bad as the token living rock, but Sam Neill as Merlin was much more wooden. Poor Miranda Richardson (Queen Mab) had to deliver her lines in a grating bronchial screech, while Rutger Hauer and Helena Bonham Carter opted for best-quality ham. Never mind, it was worth it for those fairies, buzzing about like dragonflies on crack.

BBC1

7.00am News; Weather (T) (5600834)

7.10 CBBC: Postman Pat (5620698) **7.25** Silver Brumby (9154143) **7.50** Inch High Private Eye (8586389) **8.10** Bots Master (4658679) **8.35** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (9938143) **9.00** Midas Touch (7291766) **9.25** Student Bodies (7294853) **9.55** Teletubbies (7228853)

10.20 News; Weather (T) (7573476)

10.30 Far From Home — Adventures of Yellow Dog (1994) Premiere. A youngster is shipwrecked and forced to survive in a hostile wilderness with only his trusty hound for company. Directed by Phillip Borsos (T) (1957414)

11.50 Annie: A Royal Adventure (TVM 1995) The heroine of the Oscar-winning musical visits England, where she uncovers a plot to destroy Buckingham Palace.. Directed by Ian Toynton (T) (8633785)

1.20pm News; Weather (T) (38406747)

1.35 Neighbours (T) (16452308)

2.00 The Really Wild Show Special The plight of wild tigers (T) (51896476)

2.25 Mary Poppins (1964) Disney musical fantasy about a nanny with magic powers. With Julie Andrews. Directed by Robert Stevenson (T) (15079476)

4.40 Final Score Results (9522698)

5.15 News; Weather (T) (2523230)

5.40 Neighbours (r) (T) (147037)

6.05 Get Your Act Together Viewers are invited to vote in the grand final of the talent show (T) (706056)

7.00 Easter Floods: A 999 Special How the worst floods in living memory battered the heart of England (T) (617018)

7.50 Get Your Act Together Results of the final (T) (253018)

8.00 EastEnders Roy's reckless behaviour surprises Pat (T) (9211)



Lenny Henry stars as an ambitious rhythm 'n' blues singer (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE The Man Soulful comedy drama about a singing travel agent with ambitions for the big time. With Lenny Henry (T) (8113619)

9.50 The Bay City Rollers — Remember? Profile of the band (T) (735501)

10.30 News; Weather (T) (456766)

10.50 Match of the Day Action from the FA Premiership (T) (7836872)

12.00 Four Eyes and Six Guns (TVM 1992) Western comedy, with Judge Reinhold. Directed by Piers Haggard (1693490)

1.25am Weather (5950419)

1.30 BBC News 24 (9141506)

WALES

5.15pm-5.40 News; Wales Today (T) (2523230) **9.50-10.30 The Stereophonics: Cwmaman Feel the Noize** (r) (T) (735501) **10.50 The Bay City Rollers — Remember?** (138969) **11.30 Match of the Day** (T) (556211) **12.40am FILM: Four Eyes and Six Guns** (5576709) **2.10 News; Weather** (T) (5951612) **2.15-6.00 BBC News 24** (86283457)

BBC2

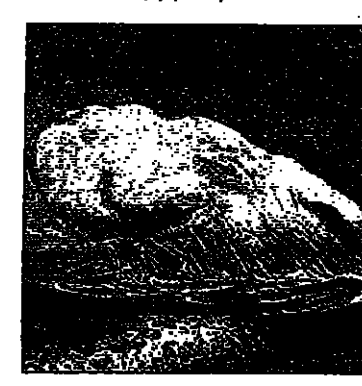
7.00am The Phil Silvers Show (r) (9133650) **7.25** FILM: Random Harvest (99549650) **9.30** Legends in Light: The Photographs of George Hurrell (75376) **10.30** FILM: It's Always Fair Weather (20458766) **12.10pm** FILM: Easter Parade (846360)

1.50 Grandstand: Touring Cars (6907698) **2.35** Around the Grounds (8511292) **2.40** Motorcycling (6459211) **3.05** Swimming (8754124) **3.25** Football Latest (5004143) **3.30** Touring Cars (7787124) **4.20** Football Latest (5038872)

4.35 Top Gear Take Two Jeremy Clarkson and Andy Wilman race at high speed in two cars chained together (T) (2267414)

4.50 The Magnificent Showman (1964) John Wayne stars as a circus owner searching for the mother of a girl he has raised as his daughter. Moving drama, with Rita Hayworth. Directed by Henry Hathaway (T) (11717143)

7.00 Golf 1999 In the week of the US Masters, the BBC football pundit Alan Hansen presents a history of the prestigious annual event (T) (4476)



An animated version of Herman Melville's classic tale (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE Moby Dick Animated version of the epic tale, featuring the voice of Rod Steiger as Ahab (T) (7853)

8.30 Food and Drink Ainsley Harriott gets to grips with fruity brioche bombes and Antony Worrall Thompson prepares scented salmon on roasted root vegetables (T) (6360)

9.00 Red Dwarf Kryten takes revenge for Lister's dodgy advice on female biology, threatening to land him and Rimmer in deep disciplinary trouble (T) (5476)

9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With Chrissie Hynde (T) (39105)

10.00 Face (1997) Premiere. Armed robbers enter a world of deceit and double-cross after the loot from their latest heist is stolen. Gangland thriller, starring Robert Carlyle and Ray Winstone. Directed by Antonia Bird (685698)

11.50 Tribe The rough and ready residents of an Edinburgh council estate and a wily bunch of female *Star Trek* fans. Last in series (T) (381389)

12.20am Animation on 2 A man's love of football jeopardises his love life (2436167)

12.25 Weather (2435438)

12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Was Anybody There? (50902) **1.00** Left and Write: Recalling the Thirties (63693) **1.30** Venice and Antwerp — Part One, The Cities Compared (73916) **2.00** Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision — Science 3. Chemistry (92235) **4.00** Languages. Espana Viva! (92457) **5.00** *Business and Training*. Skills for Work — Improving Communication (3537612) **5.45** Open University: Following a Score (2034070) **6.10** Duccio: The Rucellai Madonna (7451322) **6.35** Open Advice — Science Skills (5362419)

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (15747)

6.00 GMTV (2135124)

9.25 CITV: Tiny Toon Adventures (7205969) **9.50** The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor (8942495) **10.20** Timmy Towers. The Easter Special (3136230) **10.45** Percy the Park Keeper (267969) **11.15** Bugs Bunny (6683230)

11.30 Born Free (1966) True story based on the lives of Joy and George Adamson, who won international acclaim for their work with Kenyan lions. Directed by James Hill (T) (55430327)

1.15pm ITV Lunchtime News (T) (38409834)

1.29 HTV Weather (93839834)

1.30 Shortland Street (45766)

2.00 Carnival of the Animals Animated musical adventure (T) (1643476)

2.35 Stay Tuned (1992) Zany comedy about a couple who buy a TV set from a diabolical salesman and get sucked into a nightmarish entertainment channel run by the Devil. With John Ritter. Directed by Peter Hyams (T) (4258747)

4.05 The Electric Horseman (1979) Sentimental drama about a washed-up former rodeo star who saves a mistreated thoroughbred horse and rides it cross-country. With Robert Redford. Directed by Sydney Pollack (T) (20653330)

6.15 HTV News and Weather (T) (199853)

6.20 ITV Evening News (T) (644768)

6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (350940)

6.30 CHOICE Martine McCutcheon: This is My Moment The former *EastEnder* offers viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the making of her debut single (T) (13650)

7.30 Coronation Street (T) (308)

8.00 Neighbours from Hell (r) (T) (1679)



Drama with Katie Ryder Richardson and Joanna Lumley (8.30pm)

8.30 Nancherrow Concluding part of the drama following the fortunes of *Coming Home*'s Carey-Lewis clan in the early 1950s (2/2) (T) (57143)

10.30 Lord of the Dance: A South Bank Show Special Profile of Irish dancer Michael Flatley (r) (851308)

11.15 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (419501)

11.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (172853)

11.35 The Lawnmower Man (1992) A slow-witted gardener is transformed into a computer-generated megalomaniac by a virtual reality experiment. Directed by Brett Leonard (T) (447785)

1.30am Cookie (1989) A streetwise teenager wins the admiration of her gangster father. Comedy, starring Peter Falk and Emily Lloyd. Directed by Susan Seidelman (318877)

3.10 World Football (r) (84737186)

3.40 You Pay Your Money (1957) A couple attempt to expose a gang stealing Arab manuscripts. Starring Honor Blackman. Directed by Maclean Rogers (3946902)

4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25317780)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (46438)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

1.29pm Central Weather (93839834)

1.30 Campus Cops Captain Hingle worries he may lose his job (45766)

6.15-6.20 Central News (199853)

11.30-11.35 Central News; Weather (172853)

1.35am The Killing Mind (TVM 1991) An FBI-trained police officer uses her mind-reading skills to delve into a 20-year-old murder case. Psychological thriller, starring Stephanie Zimbalist. Directed by Michael Ray Rhodes (969490)

3.20 World Football (82153525)

3.50 Central Jobfinder '99 (6776693)

5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9896490)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

1.29pm Westcountry Weather (93839834)

1.30-2.00 Cartoon Time (45766)

6.15-6.20 Westcountry News; Weather (199853)

11.30-11.35 Westcountry News; Weather (172853)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

6.15-6.20pm Meridian News; Weather (199853)

7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (470563)

11.30-11.35 Meridian News; Weather (172853)

5.00-5.30am Freescreen (46438)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

6.15-6.20pm Anglia News and Weather (199853)

11.29 Anglia Air Watch (380650)

11.30-11.35 Anglia News and Weather (172853)

BORDER

As Granada except:

6.15-6.20pm Border News and Weather (199853)

11.30-11.35 Border News and Weather (172853)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28261495) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69138259) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (T) (92434650) **9.05 Saved by the Bell** (T) (92298766) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93582501) **10.00 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (83350969) **10.30 CatDog** (39140969) **10.45 Boy Meets World** (T) (17822871) **11.15 Moesha** (10072394) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (99405389) **12.00 Dawson's Creek** (T) (82631056) **12.55pm Planed Plant** (T) (15136582) **1.25 Classic Cars** (T) (17923389) **1.55 The Magical Making of Merlin** (T) (98718211) **2.30 Racing from Kempton Park, Newcastle and Fairyhouse** (T) (21261853) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (99599563) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41971476) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99513143) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49047563) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39835308) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41984940) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (49650308) **7.45 Porc Pei** (r) (T) (31391230) **8.45 Glan Clwyd** (T) (26114691) **9.15 Sgorio** (T) (39036124) **10.20 Merlin** (T) (59094018) **12.10am The Real Merlin** (T) (84268167) **1.10 The Long Good Friday** (r) (98363457) **1.55 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.45am The Magic Roundabout (2465360)

5.50 Animal Alphabet (2495501)

5.55 Sesame Street (5231563)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (31124)

9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3442230)

9.05 Saved by the Bell (7283747)

9.30 Sam and Max (33921)

10.00 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (97292)

10.30 CatDog (3226476)

10.45 Boy Meets World (T) (258211)

11.15 Moesha (255124)

11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (2575124)

12.00 Sesame Street (T) (32673)

12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (44037)

1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (34211)

1.30 Twitchers (r) (T) (61495)

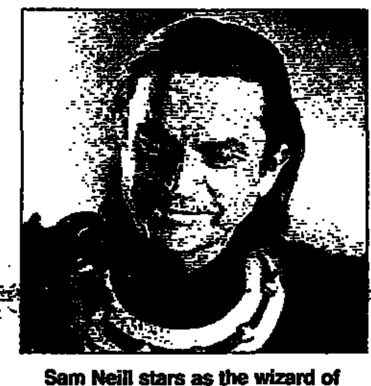
2.30 Racing from Kempton Park, Newcastle and Fairyhouse From Kempton Park: The **2.35** Quail Stakes, **3.05** Magnolia Stakes, **3.40** Coral Rosebery Handicap, Stakes and the **4.10** Travelling the Turf Racecourse of the Year Handicap Stakes. From Newcastle: The **2.50** Best Music Metro FM Handicap Stakes and the **3.20** Magic FM Handicap Stakes. From Fairyhouse: The **3.55** Jameson Irish Grand National (34292)

4.30 Countdown (T) (7758230)

4.55 Montel Williams (T) (9503563)

5.30 Pet Rescue Easter Special (T) (69327)

6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (766)



Sam Neill stars as the wizard of Arthurian legend (7pm)

7.00 Merlin Part two. Sam Neill stars in an epic adventure. With Miranda Richardson, Helena Bonham Carter and Sir John Gielgud (T) (45954940)

8.50 News; Weather (T) (306969)

9.00 Roswell (TVM 1994) Dramatised account of the Army officer Jesse Marcel's 30-year battle against the high-level cover-up of his alleged contact with an alien in the New Mexico desert. Starring Kyle MacLachlan. Directed by Jeremy Kagan (T) (31090018)

10.40 CHOICE Paul Zenon Turning Tricks Elaborate set-ups and visual stings (980259)

11.35 Smack the Pony (r) (T) (303501)

12.05am And the Beat Goes On Ritchie does a runner on finding out he is not the father of Cathy's baby (2/8) (r) (2539612)

1.10 The Siege of Scotland Yard Media pressure on Sir Paul Condon following the publication of the Macpherson report into the Lawrence Inquiry (r) (1641186)

2.15 The Long Good Friday Last year's peace agreement in Northern Ireland (r) (T) (5448709)

2.55 Dispatches (r) (T) (4350964)

3.25 The Client Reggie defends a man accused of murder (r) (4840148)

4.15 The Kid From Spain (1932) Eddie Cantor plays a simpleton who gets mistaken for a bullfighter. Musical directed by Leo McCarey (638709)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (5096785)

7.00 WideWorld Part two. How art and science have contributed to an understanding of the human body (r) (T) (2946501)

7.30 Milkshake! (2741259)

7.35 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4165872)

8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (2793853)

8.25 Witchworld; 5 News Update (3634679)

9.00 Ugly Duckling (TVM 1997) Animation based on the famous fairy tale. Directed by David Elvin (2140414)

10.30 CHOMPS (1979) Children's cartoon. A young genius invents a bionic dog designed to be the world's best home-protection device. With the voice of Wesley Eure. Directed by Don Chaffey (4742563)

12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8948292)

12.30pm Family Affairs Roy is released from prison (r) (T); 5 News Update (6388691)

1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sly kidnaps Jessica and Jasmine (T) (2945872)

1.30 The Roseanne Show The outrageous comedian Roseanne hosts her own show boasting provocative interviews and hot musical acts; 5 News Update (7738132)

2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2256389)

2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap *Liverpool Mums, Pets Go Public*, and Rob Butler's word game *Cryptogram*; 5 News Update (8849259)

3.30 Barabbas (1962) Biblical epic following the life of the thief replaced by Jesus on the Cross. Anthony Quinn and Jack Palance star. Directed by Richard Fleischer (T) (3257308)

6.00 5 News; Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (6240969)

6.30 Family Affairs Benji defends Maggie's honour (T); 5 News Update (6224921)

7.00 Splash Too (TVM 1988) A Manhattan yuppie tries to settle down with his mermaid wife in New York, but their marital bliss is soon disturbed by the fishtailed female's efforts to save a friendly dolphin. Comedy sequel, starring Todd Waring, Amy Yasbeck and Donovan Scott. Directed by Greg Antonacci (T) (5374018)

8.30 The Tuskegee Airmen (TVM 1995) Second World War drama about the prejudice directed at America's first all-black fighter pilot squadron by fellow servicemen — including their own officers. Starring Laurence Fishburne, John Lithgow and Malcolm-Jamal Warner. Directed by Robert Markowitz (T); 5 News Update (4762327)

10.30 Dr Fox's Chart Update The latest pop hits (4338143)

10.35 Tomcat: Dangerous Desires (TVM 1992) A dancer is injected with feline DNA to cure a fatal genetic imbalance, only to suffer terrifying side-effects. Adult thriller, with Richard Grieco. Directed by Paul Donovan (69550834)

12.25am Live and Dangerous: NHL American Ice Hockey Coverage of the New York Rangers at New Jersey Devils (74468457)

5.30 Beastly Britain The grey squirrel (r) (T) (6030235)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (68292) **7.30** Grimmy (67327) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (58768) **8.30** Flash Gordon (57037) **9.00** The Simpsons (48389) **9.30** The Simpsons (75921) **10.00** Xena: Warrior Princess (76211) **11.00** Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (63747) **12.00** The New Adventures of Superman (98872) **1.00pm** Tarzan: The Epic Adventures (74292) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (54501) **3.00** Jenny Jones (87292) **4.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (96817) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (8124) **6.00** Friends (2056) **6.30** Friends (3306) **7.00** The Simpsons (9653) **7.30** The Simpsons (2292) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (17921) **9.00** First Wave (37785) **10.00** South Park (52582) **10.30** King of the Hill (61230) **11.00** Friends (46376) **11.30** Friends (59056) **12.00** Star Trek: Voyager (15341) **12.30am** Law and Order (23070) **1.30** Long Play (4896693)

SKY BOX OFFICE

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SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Chasing Amy (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Jackie Brown (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 58) **Flubber (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Kiss the Girls (1998)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Courage Mountain (1990) (83360) **8.00 Home Alone (1991)** (43495) **10.00 Bean (1997)** (17853) **11.30 Courage Mountain (1990)** (51847766) **1.25pm Speed II: Cruise Control (1997)** (35539921) **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (9582) **4.00 Home Alone (1991)** (1698) **6.00 Bean (1997)** (32230) **8.00 Liar, Liar (1997)** (11747) **10.00 Speed II: Cruise Control (1997)** (93132143) **12.05am The Crossing Guard (1995)** (755032) **1.55 Eye for an Eye (1996)** (534725) **3.40 The Rich Man's Wife (1996)** (57601032)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.00am They Won't Believe Me (1947) (65308) **7.00 Love is Strange (1998)** (82872) **9.00 Married to a Stranger (1997)** (32389) **11.00 Susie Q (TVM 1996)** (18921) **1.00 Love is Strange (1998)** (36105) **3.00 Married to a Stranger (1997)** (40679) **5.00 Susie Q (TVM 1996)** (67414) **7.00 Rockford Files: Blessing in Disguise (1995)** (73124) **9.00 Our Mother's Murder (1997)** (12476) **11.00 Twists of Terror (1998)** (68563) **12.30am Omega Doom (1996)** (11390070) **1.55 Dying to be Perfect: The Ellen Hart Pena Story (1996)** (247815) **3.30 Logan's War: Bound by Honour (TVM 1998)** (937457)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Pardon Us (1931) (7558853) **6.00 Tarzan the Fearless (1933)** (3352114) **8.00 Heat and Dust (1983)** (83811389) **10.15 Macon County Line (1973)** (2898056) **11.50 The Lion in Winter (1968)** (92241389) **2.05am Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Code (1946)** (65038896) **3.50 Nothing but the Truth (1941)** (35421438)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm A Bout de Souffle (1959) (8698018) **8.00 Only You (1994)** (8693563) **10.00 A Life Less Ordinary (1997)** (8737679) **11.50 Shallow Grave (1994)** (9105056) **1.40 Trainspotting (1996)** (4014631) **3.15 Stab Boys (1997)** (6695902) **4.50** Outrageous Tax Stories (2760051) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm The Hucksters (1947) (93589921) **11.00 Escape from Fort Bravo (1953)** (90569501) **1.00am The Last Run (1971)** (71387457) **2.45 Zabriskie Point (1970)** (17474849) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

6.00am World Sport Special **6.30** Snow Show **7.00** Scottish Football **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** Soccer Extra **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Live Super League **2.30** Sports Centre Special **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** League Review **7.00** Live Football: See Choice **10.15** Sports Centre **10.30** You're On Sky Sports! **11.15** Super League **12.15am** Sports Centre **12.30** You're On Sky Sports! **1.15** Football Special **3.15** League Review **3.45** Sports Centre **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00am Rugby Union Update **7.00** Aerobics **7.30** Racing News **8.00** Ice Hockey **10.30** British Rally Cross Championships **11.00** Golf **12.00** Live Nationwide League Football **2.30pm** Powerboat and Jetsport World **3.00** Live International Cricket **10.00** V-Max **10.30** Football League Review **11.00** World Motor Sport **2.00am** Total Sport **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Motorcycling **2.00pm** Live Snooker **5.00** Powerboat and Jetsport World **5.30** V-Max **6.00** Super League **7.00** Live Snooker **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing. A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cycling **8.30** Extreme Sports **9.00** Football **10.30** Tractor Pull **11.30** Strongman **12.30pm** Football **2.30** Live Cycling **4.00** Live Football **6.00** Football **7.00** Live Football **9.00** Extreme Sports **10.00** Football **11.30** Boxing **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Casualty **10.05** *FILM*: **Cliffhanger (1993)** **12.05am** The Bill **1.05** Between the Lines **2.00** The Man from Auntie **2.30** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters **11.00** Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close



Ewan McGregor stars in Danny Boyle and John Hodge's offbeat romantic comedy *A Life Less Ordinary* (FilmFour, 10pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Art Attack **9.35** Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** *Pepper Ann* **10.30** Ned's Newt **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Teen Angel **12.00** Boy Meets World **12.30pm** Brotherly Love **1.00** Dinosaurs **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: One Hundred and One Dalmatians (1961)** **8.30** Honey I Shrunk the Kids **9.05** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub **7.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters **8.00** Catdog **9.00** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **12.00** Moesha **1.00pm** Renford Rejects **2.00** Hey Arnold! **3.00** Rugrats **4.30** Sister Sister **5.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **7.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.20** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Silver Surfer **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.00** Goosebumps **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.40** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **10.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** Goosebumps **11.25** Dennis and Gnasher **11.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **12.00** Goosebumps **12.25pm** The Incredible Hulk **12.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **1.00** Goosebumps **1.25** Fantastic Four **1.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **2.00** Goosebumps **2.25** X-Men **2.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **3.00** Goosebumps **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** USA High **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **9.00** Hang Time **9.30** Hang Time **10.00** Sweet Valley High **10.30** Sweet Valley High **11.00** Saved By the Bell: The College Years **11.30** Saved By the Bell: The College Years **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **1.00** Saved By the Bell: Hawaiian Style **3.00** City Guys **3.30** City Guys **4.00** Weird Science **4.30** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **5.30** In the House **6.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **6.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **7.00** Movies, Games and Videos **7.30** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00** **FILM: Come Play with Me (1977)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00** **FILM: Frankenhooker (1990)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Late Night with David Letterman **12.30am** The Larry Sanders Show **1.00** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00** **FILM: Timecop (1994)** **12.00** VR5 **1.00am** **FILM: Xtro III: Watch the Skies (1995)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Away with Words **6.30** Away with Words **7.00** Routes **7.30** Routes **8.00** The Diceman **8.30** The Diceman **9.00** Two's Country **9.30** Two's Country **10.00** Two's Country **10.30** Two's Country **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** The Diceman **12.00** The Diceman **12.30pm** The Diceman **1.00** A Cook's Journey **1.30** A Cook's Journey **2.00** A River Somewhere **2.30** A River Somewhere **3.00** A River Somewhere **3.30** A River Somewhere

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Best of British **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Beyond the Truth **9.00** Myths and Mysteries **10.00** Nazis: The Occult Conspiracy **12.00** Century of Discoveries **1.00am** Flightline **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Hamadrayas: Baboons of Saudi Arabia **2.00** Mozu the Snow Monkey **3.00** Gorilla, Gorilla **4.00** Wild Veterinarians. Doctor Chimpanzee **4.30** The Big Animal Show **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets Special **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Zongman and the Cormorant's Egg **7.30** The Siberian Tiger: Predator or Prey? **8.30** Among the Baboons **9.00** Living Science: Forensic Science **10.00** Lost Worlds: The City of Gold and How to Get There **11.00** Extreme Earth: Avalanche! **11.30** Extreme Earth: After the Hurricane **12.00** On the Edge: Extreme Skiing **12.30am** On the Edge: On Hawaii's Giant Wave

HISTORY

5.00pm Project Cancelled: DeHavilland Comet **6.00** The Seven Wonders of the World: Built to Last Forever **7.00** Playback. Ken Clarke **7.30** Bomb to the Beatles: I, Witness — Facing the Future

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** For Better, For Worse **10.30** Simply Baking **11.00** Simply Antony **11.30** Caribbean Light **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Cooked in a Flash **3.30** Food for Thought **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** **FILM: Samantha (1992)** **4.20** Entertainment Now! **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00** **FILM: Outrageous Fortune (1987)** **11.00** Sexdasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Banegi Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00** **FILM** **3.00pm** Bangla TV: Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** Ikko Pe Ikka **4.00** Filmi Chakkar **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Neeyat **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Cha Che Cha **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Mausam **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** Talking To **10.30** Up Beat **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Bluni 2 **12.00** News **12.30am** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00** **FILM** **4.30** Revaith



IN RUINS 43
What happens when past and present collide

BUSINESS

JUDGMENT 46
Prince Jefri's case shakes Chinese walls



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY APRIL 5 1999

IT experts fear Budget will spark 'brain drain'

By Chris Ayres

COMPUTER EXPERTS are threatening to abandon Britain because of a tax change made in Gordon Brown's Budget last month.

The change, to take effect from April 2000, will force highly paid IT consultants to become staff employees of the companies they work for, instead of charging fees through tax-efficient "personal service companies".

Financial advisers to the IT industry say that the tax change may create a devastating "brain drain" of IT professionals and do much more harm to the economy than steps by hauliers to move abroad because of fuel duty rises.

IT contractors say the change will undermine the Government's aim of boosting IT education and of making Britain "the information centre of the world". They argue that Britain already has a damaging shortage of IT professionals, with an estimated 50,000 jobs unfilled, although industry relies on computer experts to fix the millennium bug and to help it to compete with foreign rivals.

Giant Group, which advises 3,500 British IT professionals on financial matters, is one of many industry organisations giving warning that computer specialists will take their skills abroad if the Government presses on with its crackdown on personal service companies. It argues that many other nations with shortages of IT skills already offer big tax discounts to woo foreign IT professionals. In The Netherlands, foreign IT contractors receive a 35 per cent tax break.

Matthew Brown, chief executive of Giant, said: "We are facing a massive brain drain. Already we've been inundated with responses from individuals who say they'll simply go abroad. This means that their clients will end up having to pay more to keep them."

An Inland Revenue spokeswoman said that the changes to personal service company law were not intended to hit IT consultants, but to to stop companies taking away the rights of workers by paying them freelance fees when they were effectively full-time employees.

However, a Government statement at the time of the Budget took a harder line. It said: "There has for some time been general concern about the hiring of individuals through their own service companies so that they can exploit the fiscal advantages offered by a corporate structure."



WEBSITES: www.giantgroup.com www.engineerjob.com

Post Office poised for £1.5bn spree

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

THE Post Office intends to invest £1.5 billion in overseas acquisitions over the next few years to counter the growing threat of competition in its domestic market.

The organisation, which spent more than £300 million acquiring German Parcel in January, is keen to extend its influence further, with an increased stake in General Parcel high on the list of possible investments.

The Post Office has inherited German Parcel's 23 per cent stake in General Parcel, an international business with operations in 30 European countries. Neville Bain, Post Office chairman, said: "We would like to control more of that."

The organisation, which owns Royal Mail and Parcelforce, is under pressure to extend its reach into Europe prior to full liberalisation of postal services in 2003. Consolidation is already in full swing and the Post Office is a late starter; the Dutch post office has acquired TNT, while Deutsche Post has taken a stake in DHL.

However, the Post Office's international investment plans are likely to anger consumer groups. Many believe that the Post Office should invest to improve domestic services and keep down the cost of first and second class postage.

The takeover of German Parcel has already aroused controversy, given the Post Office's reluctance to confirm the price and precise means by which it funded the deal. Competitors have complained to the European Commission that the money could not have been raised without the backing of the Royal Mail's letters monopoly.

The Post Office states that the German deal was financed with reserves, commercial borrowings and government loans. Mr Bain said: "Geared appropriately, we could finance £1.5 billion in acquisitions. We have eight active targets."

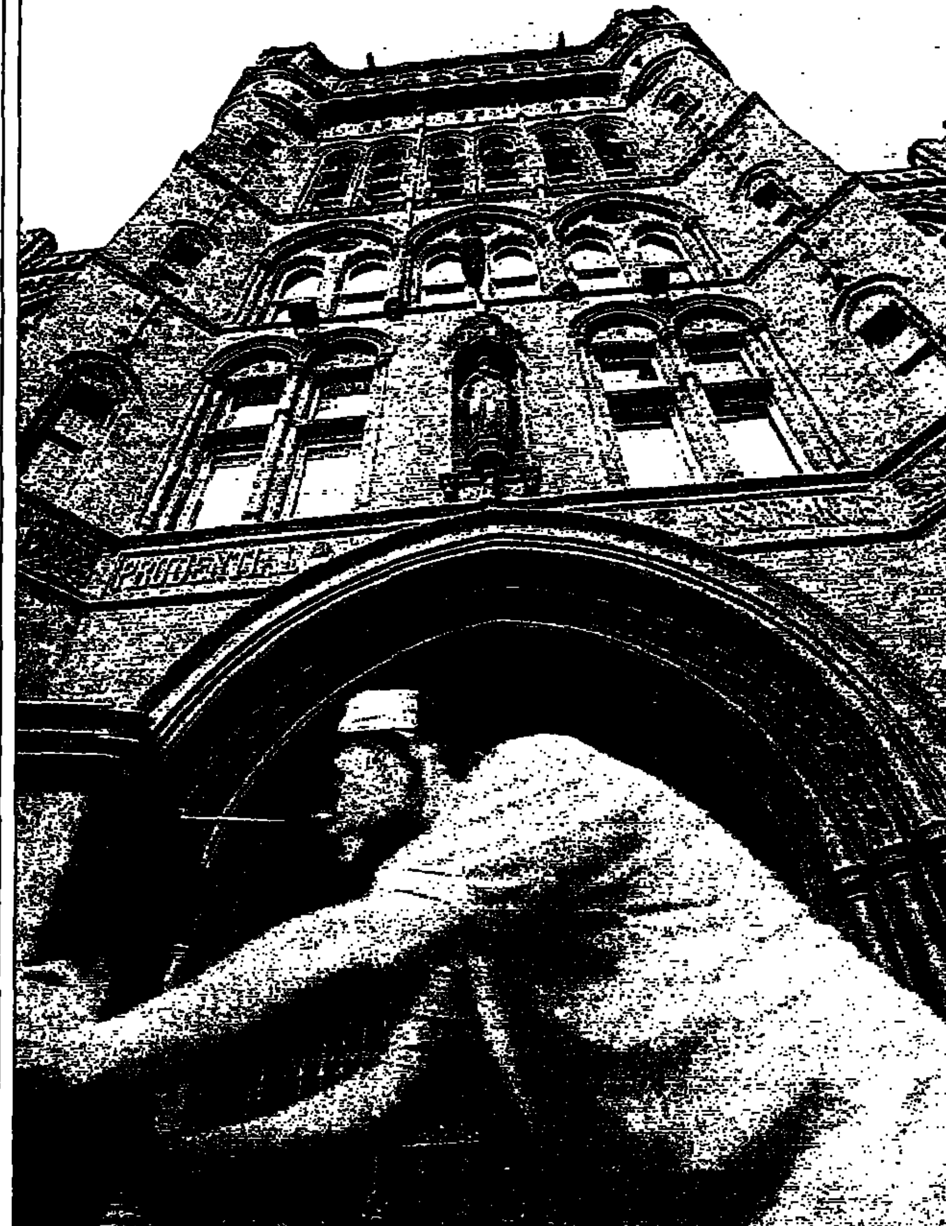
Key to future funding will be the Government White Paper, expected soon, which is likely to recommend greater commercial freedom for the Post Office.

Last year Peter Mandelson, then Trade and Industry Secretary, announced that the Post Office would lose its monopoly on delivering letters costing less than £1 and that it would be ruled by a new regulator. In return the Post Office would be able to keep a greater share of its profits, rather than give them to the Treasury, and be allowed to buy companies overseas.

Mr Bain expects further consolidation in the European postal market focused around a small number of players.

Increased competition and the threat of losing valuable commercial business in 2003 is likely to force the smaller European postal services into alliances with companies such as Deutsche Post or Britain's Post Office. In exchange for acting as feeders, they would secure access to a larger network. Mr Bain said: "They need a trading relationship. It would provide one system dealing with production and distribution."

RICHARD CANNON



Premium site: Prudential is quitting the head office building it has occupied for 129 years

Prudential on the move

THE removal men moved in yesterday as the Prudential began to vacate its Holborn headquarters in Central London yesterday, a building it has occupied for almost 130 years (Caroline Merrell writes).

The building, specifically built for the UK's biggest insurance company in 1870, is to be rented out and about 500 staff are to be relocated in offices close to Cannon Street.

The listed building, which also provides offices for the Royal Bank of Scotland, was completely modernised six years ago at an estimated cost of £150 million. The Queen reopened the refurbished offices in October 1993.

A spokesman for the group said the Prudential was moving to a more modern office environment, adding that its recent restructuring meant that it no longer needed the space.

Alaska may fight the might of BP

By Carl Mortished

ALASKA may set up its own oil and gas company to challenge the might of BP Amoco and Atlantic Richfield (Arco).

BP Amoco's $27 billion (£17 billion) takeover of Arco will give the merged company 70 per cent of Alaska's oil production. As a result, the state's Governor has appointed a high-level cabinet team to review the planned takeover in an urgent attempt to protect Alaska's interests.

Drue Pearce, Alaska's Senate President, and Brian Porter, the House Speaker, said: "The fact that one company would control so large a portion of Alaska's oil and gas resources puts our state in a very vulnerable position."

The oil industry also accounts for 70 per cent of Alaska's $2.3 billion operating budget.

The potential domination by a foreign corporation has brought calls for action from lawmakers to force BP to sell some of its holding to ensure that competition is maintained. Some politicians have suggested that BP should be compelled to relinquish its gas interests to a state-owned company. There are fears that competition for leases on exploration acreage will be reduced. Much of the state revenue comes from bonus bids for leases.

A Bill is now before the Alaskan legislature to establish Alaska Gas Corporation, the first step towards a state-owned company that would both market the huge but untapped gas reserves in the North Slope and challenge the private sector's dominance.

Representative Jim Whitaker, Republican Chairman of the House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, said: "In the light of the ongoing merger negotiations between BP Amoco and Arco, we may soon see less competitive North Slope operating procedures, which will likely result in a situation less beneficial to the state."

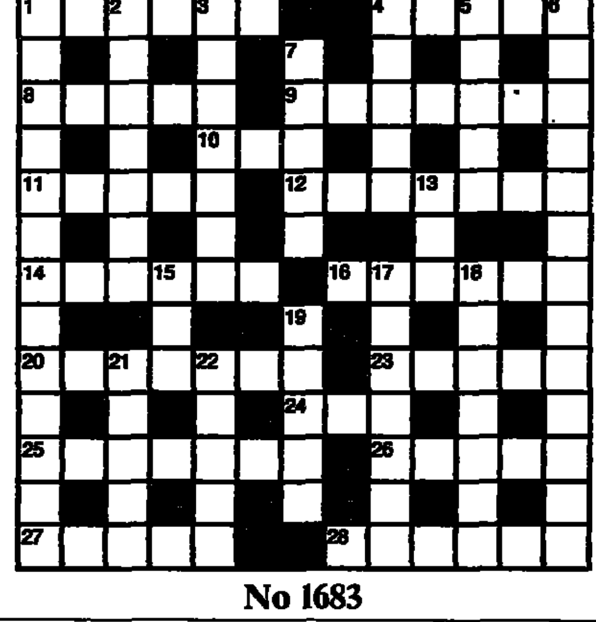
Mr Whitaker said: "State ownership of this project is critical in order to overcome the enormous tax burden associated with private sector ownership."

BP Amoco, too, is playing up the potential of riches from gas to sway opinion in its favour. Sir John Browne, chief executive, said the deal would unlock the huge potential of Alaskan gas reserves and he offered the carrot of new technology to convert gas into liquids. He said: "We have plans to build a $70 million pilot plant on the North Slope to test that technology, and if it is successful, we will consider full-scale development."

The Federal Government in Washington will be keenly aware of the dilemma because it plans to lease a vast area of the National Petroleum Reserve in May. The highly controversial move — the land is home to huge herds of caribou as well as polar bears and migratory birds — will be a test case for competition because it will take place before the BP Arco merger is concluded.

BP and Arco combined will be the largest non-state oil producer in the world, pumping four million barrels of oil and gas a day. Arco also brings with it a vast gasfield in Indonesia, with eight trillion cubic feet in reserves. The groups will have a combined market capitalisation of $190 billion, with share listings in London and New York. In London, the company will be about a tenth of the FTSE 100 index by value.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1683

ACROSS
1 Tilted up: (gun) ready to fire (6)
4 More public; further from centre (5)
8 Relax (pressure) (3,2)
9 Not worth the same (7)
10 Repent (3)
11 Brown/yellow colour, pigment (5)
12 Hair cleaner (7)
14 Beat soundly: party *(slang)* (6)
16 Eg *Ozymandias* verse form (6)
20 Magwitch's daughter *(Dickens)* (7)
23 Archive (micro)film of documents (5)
24 Nothing (3)
25 One from Teheran (7)
26 Ice house (5)
27 Simple song (5)
28 Caught sight of *(arch.)* (6)

DOWN
1 Desire to get back to Nature (4,2,3,4)
2 Baseball fielder; Salinger's was *in the Rye* (7)
3 Powerful ruling woman (7)
4 Work as Aida, Tosca (5)
5 Winning card (5)
6 Traffic regulations (4,2,3,4)
7 One given hospitality (5)
13 To crew; an island (3)
15 Unreturnable serve (3)
17 (Computer) not connected to network (3-4)
18 Aircraft engine casing (7)
19 Shrewd, prudent (5)
21 Typical aspect of character (5)
22 Non-clergy (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1682
ACROSS: 1 Populace 5 Spat 8 Sit up 9 Bastion 11 Ugh 12 Sclerotic 13 Entrap 15 Cirrus 18 Connubial 19 Spa 20 Growing 21 Capri 22 Rusk 23 Feedback
DOWN: 1 Posture 2 Patch 3 Lapis lazuli 4 Cobalt 6 Printer 7 Tunic 10 Strait-laced 14 Tenuous 16 Seasick 17 Mingle 18 Cigar 19 Sepia

SOLUTION TO GOOD FRIDAY TIMES TWO JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 Bugbear 5 Petrarch 9 Portamento 16 Bonnie Prince Charlie 17 Nightie 18 Shortlist 19 Trident 20 Archivist 21 Twain 22 Abhorrent 24 Endearingly 26 Extremist 28 Air-conditioning 32 Bodkin 34 Window sill 35 Brasilia 38 Exude 39 Barricade 41 Theatricals 43 Echo sounder 44 Sudorific 45 Tenon 46 Lifetime 47 Terracotta 49 Cleave 51 Rogues' galleries 54 Clavicles 57 George Medal 59 Examining 60 Chaff 62 Outweighs 64 Vaccine 66 Essential 67 Tristan 68 Alternative medicine 69 Sugar daddy 70 Flysheet 71 Theseus

DOWN: 1 Babysitter 2 Gondola 3 Existence 4 Replication 5 Paint the town red 6 Taciturn 7 Archipelago 8 Clare 10 One-handed 11 Tunic 12 Magnifico 13 Notting Hill Carnival 14 Overtly 15 Blithe 23 Turk's head 25 Antarctic 27 Too much of a good thing 29 Obliterate 30 Gray's Inn 31 Antifreeze 33 Knesset 36 Skittle 37 Reveller 39 Brummagem 40 Assertive 42 Enfranchisement 48 Costa Ricans 49 Charge sheet 50 Usefulness 52 Egg-beater 53 Lady's maid 55 Incentive 56 Live wire 57 Glottis 58 Levity 61 Asinine 63 Genoa 65 Coral

Easter Bank Holiday Concise Jumbo Crossword, page 42

Sainsbury labels OFT's work as 'inadequate'

By Paul Armstrong

THE simmering row between food retailers and the Office of Fair Trading broke out into the open yesterday when J Sainsbury, Britain's second-largest supermarket chain, confirmed reports that it had labelled the OFT's work as "inadequate and inconclusive".

Dino Adriano, Sainsbury's chief executive, has accused the OFT of using "an experimental formula" in trying to establish whether the supermarkets were making excessive profits. The attack was contained in a leaked letter from Mr Adriano to John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading.

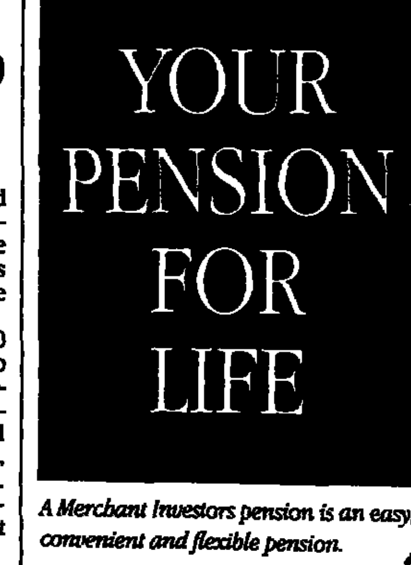
Mr Adriano encourages Mr Bridgeman to refer the trading activities of the four big supermarkets to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, saying the MMC would "confirm that competition is alive and well" in the industry.

The leaking of the letter, and Sainsbury's confirmation of its accuracy, was seen as further evidence of the damage being inflicted on the supermarket industry's public image by the OFT.

The watchdog, which has been investigating the industry for nine months, is expected to reveal within a fortnight whether it will hand its file to the MMC.

"Your staff have struggled for nine months to assess supermarket profitability," Mr Adriano wrote. "That its results should prove inconclusive should come as no surprise.

"Supermarket profits are not excessive, are well in line with profitability generally in the UK and the sector in continental Europe and the US."



Adriano: letter to watchdog

News of Mr Adriano's attack comes less than a fortnight after Asda, one of Sainsbury's key competitors, was embroiled in a public row with the OFT over its profit margins.

Asda claimed that the OFT had said it had no problem with Asda's margins, a suggestion which the OFT denied immediately.

The OFT has based its work on a complex formula using figures supplied by Sainsbury, Safeway, Asda and Tesco.

The complexity of the formula is believed to be responsible for the delay in the inquiry, which was due to be completed by Christmas.

Mad dash to beat Pep deadline

HOLIDAYS have been called off for many banking staff today as they work to process the last rush for Peps and Tessas before the midnight deadline (Our City Staff writes).

The Halifax is opening 100 of its 800 bank branches to process the forms. The bank received more than 4,000 applications for tax exempt special savings accounts on Saturday, four times the normal amount. Personal equity plan applications were also 30 per cent higher than normal.

Peps and Tessas are being abolished in favour of individual savings accounts (Isas), which offer less generous tax-free savings allowances.

The rush also comes at a time when many people are looking to make investments before the new tax year starts.

Today Don Clark, managing director of the firm of Torquil Clark, will deliver Pep applications worth more than £2.5 million by helicopter to fund management companies including Perpetual, Gartmore, Fidelity, Jupiter and Invesco.

BA launches travel loan service

By Caroline Merrell
Banking Correspondent

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to become the first airline to offer travel loans to its customers. The travel loans, from £500 to £15,000, available from tomorrow, will eventually be available from all of the airline's travel shops across the UK.

Initially, the service, British Airways Travel Finance, will be offered from six of the airline's shops around the country.

A spokesman for BA said yesterday that the loan operation was not a prelude to the launch of a bank, but indicated that further financial initiatives were being considered. Martin George, BA's director of marketing, said: "British Airways is the first airline to pioneer travel loans. This is a unique service which will make planning your flight or holiday easier than before."

British Airways has about 41 million customers worldwide, including 600,000 executive club members in the UK and 2.5 million throughout the world.

The airline will offer two options for repaying the loan. Under the interest-free option, borrowers pay a 10 per cent deposit, with the rest of the instalments spread over three months. If they choose to spread the repayments over 12 months or 23 months, the loans attract interest rates of 15.9 per cent or 14.9 per cent, respectively.

The British Airways Financial Services division was launched three years ago. It offers travel insurance with GE Capital Travel Insurance Services, joint branded foreign currency and traveller's cheques through Travelex, and credit charge cards in seven countries.

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